

Austria	Sch. 15	Indonesia	Rp 2500	Portugal	Lsc. 85
Bahrain	Dh. 8.620	Italy	L 1100	S. Arab	Rls. 6.00
Belgium	BF. 35	Japan	Y 1550	Singapore	S\$ 4.10
Canada	C\$ 5.50	Jordan	Fls. 500	Spain	Pts. 85
Cyprus	Mes. 1.00	Korea	Fls. 400	Sri Lanka	Rp 30
Denmark	Dk. 1.02	Liberia	Fls. 5.00	Sweden	Sk 8.50
Egypt	EP. 1.00	Lithuania	Fls. 2.35	Switzerland	Swf. 2
Federal Rep.	Fls. 2.50	Malta	Fls. 4.25	Tunisia	NT 385
France	Fr. 5.50	Mexico	Pes. 300	Turkey	TL 800
Germany	DM 1.00	Morocco	Fls. 6.00	U.S.A.	\$ 1.00
Greece	Dr. 6.00	Netherlands	Fls. 2.25	U.S.S.R.	1.180
Hong Kong	HKS 1.2	Ireland	Fls. 6.00	U.K.	£ 6.00
India	Rup. 15	Philippines	Pes. 20	U.S.S.R.	1.180
		Peru	1.50		

FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

Tuesday November 15 1983

D 8523 B

No. 29,172

French steelmakers
resign themselves
to making cuts, Page 2

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Thatcher to visit Hungary next year

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will visit Hungary early next year, her first visit to a Soviet-bloc country since she became Prime Minister in 1979.

She announced this at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in London, where she emphasised the need to avoid misunderstandings with the Eastern bloc that might increase the risks of war, and to work for a safer world. It is expected that East-West relations and trade issues will be on the agenda. Page 20

East Beirut shelled

Druse militia shelled and fired rockets at Christian east Beirut for the first time since the Lebanon truce was signed in late September. Page 7

Casino 'blitz'

More than 30 casino employees and bankers in northern Italy have been arrested in what has been called a "blitz" after an inquiry into the "laundering" of Mafia money. Page 3

Setback in Peru

Peru's centrist Government is facing a crushing defeat in municipal elections with Marxist Alfonso Barrenechea heading for victory in the Lima mayoral poll, and opposition candidates making gains in the November settlement. Page 5

Soviet ships freed

The last of 55 Soviet cargo ships trapped in Arctic ice off Siberia has been released by icebreakers, and is returning to port, reported news agency Tass.

Bangladesh elections

Lieutenant-General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, Bangladesh's military leader, announced presidential elections next May. Parliamentary elections on November 25 next year, and that free political activity could resume now. Page 7

Indian security

India will provide a security force of 30,000 for next week's Commonwealth heads of state conference, which Queen Elizabeth will attend.

Burma leader jailed

Former Burmese intelligence chief Brigadier-General Tin Oo, once considered a likely successor to the country's leader Ne Win, was jailed for life for corruptly taking £1m Kyat (£25,000). Page 7

Not so Pacific

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, visiting New Zealand, said the creation of a Pacific Ocean nuclear-free zone would be unrealistic.

Chinese delicacy

Liu Jingxian, 39, won an all-China champion chef competition with a menu starting with chicken and sea slugs in broth, followed by stewed bear's paw and fish stomach, and chicken legs with abalone, a sea mollusc. Liu said his victory was due to skill with the ladle and knowing how to set the gas cooking flame.

Briefly...

Syrian President Hafez al-Assad had his appendix removed.

Amsterdam: Pakistani metallurgist Dr Abel Qadeer Khan was sentenced in his absence to four years' jail for trying to steal uranium enrichment secrets. Moscow: Weekend blizzard brought winter early with 25 cm (10 inches) of snow. Page 21

BUSINESS

Israel switches economic strategy

ISRAEL's new Finance Minister, Yigal Cohen-Orgad, is giving priority to reducing the \$5bn balance of payments deficit rather than fighting the triple-figure inflation rate. Subsidised food prices were raised by 15-20 per cent. Page 20

• DOLLAR eased in quiet trade. It fell to FF 8.14 (from FF 8.145), Swissfr. 2.1625 (SwF 2.17) and Y243.5 (Y233.5) and was unchanged at DM 5.7675. In Tokyo it closed at FF 8.27, SwF 2.1622, Y244.22 and DM 2.674. Page 63

• STERLING fell 25 points to 5.485, and to DM 3.9765 (DM 3.9825), FF 12.075 (FF 12.11), Swissfr. 2.2415 (SwF 2.25), and Y243.5 (Y233.5). Its trade weighting fell from 51.1 to 54.1 in New York. It closed at \$1.485. Page 43

• GOLD closed unchanged from Friday in London, at \$382.125. In Frankfurt it rose \$0.75 to \$382.75, and in Zurich it closed unchanged at \$382.5. In New York, the Comex November settlement was \$382.60. Page 42

• TEA prices reached a 6% peak in London, with the indicative price for quality tea 13p up to 22.5p (\$3.71) a kilo. Page 42

• LONDON: FT Industrial Ordinance index edged up 2.3 to 727.4. Some Government securities showed modest falls. Report, Page 37. FT Share Information Service, Pages 38-40

• WALL STREET: Dow Jones index closed 1.87 up at 1,254.87. Report, Page 33. Full share prices, Pages 34-36

• TOKYO: Nikkei Dow and Stock Exchange index was up 2 at 9,345.52, and the Yen index was up 2 at 886.77. Report, Page 33. Leading prices, other exchanges, Page 36

• U.S. MONEY SUPPLY: M1 fell \$2.5bn in the week to November 2.

• TOYO KOGYO, Japan's No 3 car maker, is studying plans to make vehicles in the U.S. Page 8

• HONG KONG exports to the U.S. increased 34 per cent in the first 10 months of 1983, to HK\$ 30.3bn (\$3.5bn). Page 7

• SOVIET-NORWEGIAN talks opened in Moscow about 1984 fish catch quotas for northern seas. Page 21. Today, plans produced by seven Norwegian groups to provide offshore services for Soviet oil and gas developments in the Barents Sea will be discussed.

• ZANUSSI, Italy's troubled electricals group, has secured union agreement to a three-year cut of 5,800 in its 24,000 staff, without redundancies, but through lay-offs, part-time working and early retirement. Page 20

• ELF-AQUITAINE, the French state oil group, says its newly acquired chemical operations will lose FF 1.2bn (\$147.5m) this year, but it expects them to break even by 1986. Page 21

• AKZO, the Dutch chemicals group, which has shed 2,500 jobs this year, has improved earnings in the first nine months by 17.5 per cent to Fl 284.5m (\$95.5m). Page 21

Britain confirms deployment as U.S. spells out new medium-range proposal

First cruise missiles arrive in Europe

BY BRIDGET BLOOM IN LONDON AND STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON

CRUISE MISSILES, the first of 464 to be deployed in five European countries in the next five years, have arrived in Britain and will be operational in six weeks.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Britain's Defence Secretary, refused to say yesterday how many missiles had arrived at the special Royal Air Force base at Greenham Common 35 miles west of London. It is believed 16 cruise missiles are due to be deployed this year, out of the total 160 earmarked for the UK.

Mr Heseltine emphasised in a statement in the House of Commons that the U.S. missiles were being deployed in fulfilment of the Nato decision, taken in 1979, to deploy the new weapons in the absence of Soviet agreement to dismantle 360 SS-20s targeted on Europe and Asia.

The precise breakdown for the deployment of SS-20s between Europe and the Far East would be decided through further negotiation.

Mr Paul Nitze, the U.S. negotiator, had a brief meeting yesterday with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuri Kvitsinsky. He has proposed that both superpowers should accept a global ceiling of 420 warheads on their land-based missiles.

The next full session of the talks opens this morning, and if the missiles' arrival is to be the trigger for a Soviet walkout, it could be the last such session.

Cruise missiles are unmanned flying bombs with a range of about 1,500 miles which are guided to their targets at sub-radar "contour-bugging" levels.

Britain is pledged to take 96 at Greenham Common and 64 at Molesworth, an East Anglian base for which few preparations have been made. West Germany will deploy nine Pershing-2s and 16 cruise missiles before December 31. Belgium and the Netherlands are due to take cruise missiles in the next four to five years.

Mr Heseltine said "much remained to be done," including final

talks which have been going on in Geneva for the past two years, Mr Heseltine said.

Nato plans to deploy 464 cruise and 108 Pershing 2 missiles in five European countries in the next five years. That deployment "can be halted, modified or reversed at any time if it results in Geneva," Mr Heseltine said.

The U.S. confirmed yesterday that it had put new proposals to the Soviet Union at the Geneva arms control talks.

Mr Paul Nitze, the U.S. negotiator, had a brief meeting yesterday with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuri Kvitsinsky. He has proposed that both superpowers should accept a critical Parliamentary debate on the missile issue next Monday.

The Nato offer therefore, is made less in the hope that it will be accepted than in the hope that the U.S. will appear to have done everything possible in the eyes of European public opinion to appear reasonable at the eleventh hour.

The new offer may also have been made in the hope of stalling the much-threatened Russian walk-

out at the Geneva talks which Moscow has variously linked to the missiles' arrival and to the later phase of their operational deployment.

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Mr Heseltine said "much remained to be done," including final

assembly and testing of equipment and personnel training before the missiles became operational by December 31.

He insisted that the new missiles could only be used as a deterrent, not as a "first strike" weapons. In a later statement, however, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, said by permitting the U.S. to install a "first-use" nuclear weapon system, the Conservative Government was responsible for a "major increase in the build-up of nuclear weapons in Europe."

Mr Heseltine faced a barrage of questions yesterday.

The arrangements which provided for joint U.S.-UK decision on their use were "categoric and precise," Mr Heseltine said.

Continued on missile talk.

Page 20

Parliamentary statement,

Page 13

Warburg in link with UK jobber

By David Lascelles and John Moore in London

MERCURY SECURITIES, parent of G.W. Warburg, the merchant bank, is to take a 29.9 per cent stake in Akroyd & Smithers, one of the largest stockbrokers on the London Stock Exchange.

The deal is the latest in a string of alliances between banks and securities firms that has been triggered by proposals to reform the stock exchange and allow greater outside participation. But it is the first major one involving two British partners and by far the largest.

The indications are that the acquisition could take the form of a large capital injection by Mercury, which would end up owning 29.9 per cent of the jobber's expanded equity. This is the maximum allowed under the stock exchange's present rules.

Mercury is expected to finance the deal by issuing new shares of its own.

Warburg, one of the city's leading merchant banks, sees the link with Akroyd as a means to develop its market-making activities in both the London stock market and the Euromarkets, where it is already a major underwriter of new issues. It also aims to match the large Wall Street investment firms which generally have much better developed securities and dealings operations than the London merchant banks.

Akroyd & Smithers was founded in 1873, and now employs nearly 400 staff. Akroyd is one of only two jobbing firms - "wholesalers" of stock to London brokers - which have their own quotation on the stock market. Smith Bros is the other quoted jobbing firm and yesterday its shares rose 5p to 70p amid speculation in financial service shares following the Akroyd announcement.

Akroyd & Smithers had been in general discussions with a number of parties but the only specific negotiations had taken place with Mercury Securities. An outline agreement had been reached in the last two or three weeks," Akroyd said yesterday.

Warburg's pitch for Akroyd, Page 18; Lex, Page 20

EEC steel measures get mixed reception

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WEST GERMAN industry and government officials yesterday said they believed that the new emergency minimum prices for a wide range of steel products decided by the European Commission on Sunday are unlikely to be enough on their own to stabilise the market.

The Commission's measures met a mixed reception elsewhere in the EEC. They were welcomed as an effort to bring order to the market, but some steelmakers expressed concern about the effects on their competitive position.

The immediate fear in Bonn was that the measures might release a last-minute flood of cut-price steel as Community producers sought to reduce stocks before the December 1 deadline. In the longer term, however, the West German iron and Steel Federation said, only a better balance between supply and demand would enable steel prices to be stabilised.

As the Community's largest steel producer, and one where state subsidies are far lower than most of its EEC partners, West Germany has long been pressing for a stricter application of production and delivery quotas, and swift and unequivocal sanctions against offenders. French, British and Italian producers are prominent among those who gain unfair advantage from government subsidies, Bonn claims.

Demands for greater protection for West German producers from cut-price steel from other Community and Third World countries were contained in a "memorandum" sent recently by Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, to Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Commissioner responsible for the steel sector.

Its suggestions included stricter controls on imports by national authorities, a possible transitional "equalisation duty" on imports from EEC members with highly subsidised industries, and the limitation of imports of Third World steel to the levels of 1976-77.

Bonn is particularly sensitive about steel, given the parlous state of its own attempts to reorganise the deeply

EUROPEAN NEWS

David Housego reports on the threat to Lorraine

Valley of despair for French steelworkers

STEELWORKERS in Lorraine, could embarrass a left-wing Government, he adds a number of other factors: the incentives being offered by the management for young steelworkers to look for jobs elsewhere; the ageing of the workforce and the absence of militancy among those approaching the new retirement age of 50; the additional loss of pay involved in strikes coming on top of the fall in purchasing power resulting from the Government's austerity programme; and the demoralization of the workforce in the wake of successive closures.

At Longwy, where workers battled with riot police only four years ago to avoid extensive lay-offs and where even six months ago people believed the blast furnaces and smelting shops had won a reprieve from President François Mitterrand's Socialist administration, there are now no illusions about the fresh threat.

"We fear that the Government is backing down from the 1982 steel plan," says Albert Faletta, a local official of the Communist-led CGT union. The plan, opposed by the Communists as being insufficiently ambitious, proposed to boost French steel production to 24m tonnes by 1986. French steel output is likely to be about 17m tonnes this year. "The plan was unrealistic and Utopian," says M Daniel Boyer, a local leader of the CGC union, which represents the engineers.

Feasibility

The Government has not formally abandoned the plan. But in the Longwy valley, which has no other industry but steel, bad news has dropped this autumn as steadily as dead leaves. The coiling mill is to be run down faster than planned. The steel plate shop is to be closed earlier. The unions have been told that feasibility studies are under way on building an electric arc furnace at Longwy which would be fed by scrap metal.

This points to the abandonment of steel production based on local iron ore and a further cut in the workforce from a planned 4,200 by 1986 to possibly 1,500-1,700, the unions think. At its peak the steel industry in the whole of the Longwy valley employed some 30,000.

The unions have protested at these new moves. There was a large demonstration in September. Production has been disrupted by stoppages, and letters have been written to President Mitterrand. But M Michel Donati, another local CGT official says that it is becoming increasingly difficult to stir people to protest.

To the hesitation of labour at taking part in action that

For lower quality long products, local production costs are FF 400-500 a tonne more than those of rival North Italian electric arc furnaces, which depend on scrap metal largely from France. Hence Usinor's impatience to shift itself to electric arc production.

As French steel output has fallen from 27m tonnes in 1974 to about 17m tonnes this year, Lorraine has become increasingly marginal to French needs. Usinor's plant at Dunkirk has a capacity of 8m tonnes, and the Fos-sur-Mer plant, which it owns jointly with Sacilor, a capacity of 4m tonnes.

Senator Jean-Marie Rausch, who is President of the regional council, is frankly pessimistic about Lorraine's future prospects. He says: "With two major plants (for French steel-making) at Dunkirk and Fos, there is no place for a third."

Both M Raymond Levy, the head of Usinor, and M Claude Dalle, the chairman of Sacilor, would like to move faster towards rationalisation than the Government will allow. Both

have said that the steel plan needs to be "recast." M Levy, more forthright in his public statements, has warned of the dangers of "destructive competition" between the two groups and of the waste of overlapping investments. A new universal rolling mill that

Sacilor want to build at a cost of FF 2bn at Gondrange in Lorraine to complement its modernised steel-making facilities there threatens for instance to undercut a similar plant of Usinor's at Valenciennes in the north.

Concentrate

M Levy has made clear that he wants to concentrate Usinor's production on the profitable flat product plant at Dunkirk which is already absorbing the bulk of Usinor's planned investment. For Sacilor the problem is more complicated: that the bulk of its steel capacity is in Lorraine. But even those most pessimistic about the region's prospects as a raw steel producer believe it still has a strong future in metal fabrication.

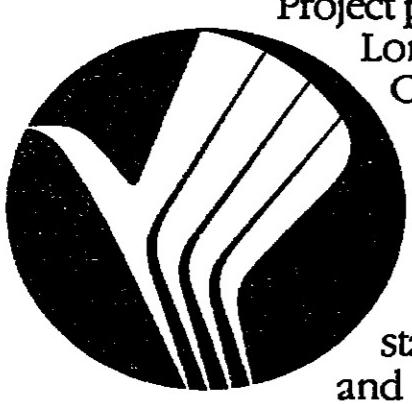
The Government has postponed formal decisions over the future of the steel industry because of the potentially explosive social consequences.



Longwy steelworkers demonstrated in 1979 - but now, for many, the heart has gone out of the fight.

Over the past four years the steel industry has already shed some 30,000 of its 130,000 workforce. Under the original 1982 plan, a further 10,000 jobs were due to go. Now it seems possible that between 10,000 and 20,000 workers on top of that could be laid off in some time, mostly from Lorraine.

President Mitterrand, in a much remembered visit to Lorraine, said in 1981 that there would be no further redundancies without new jobs being created in their place. But with the slowdown in the economy, the pace of job creation has been slow. The unions are still pressing hard for alternative employment or favourable redundancy terms. But the CGT, the most powerful union in Lorraine, is not making the steel industry's last case of its national campaign to fight lay-offs and closures. In part, that seems to be because the French steelworkers, as elsewhere in Europe, have less stomach for the fight.



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Brown Boveri know-how on ozone generators is good enough for the City of Los Angeles, at the new water treatment plant in San Fernando Valley.

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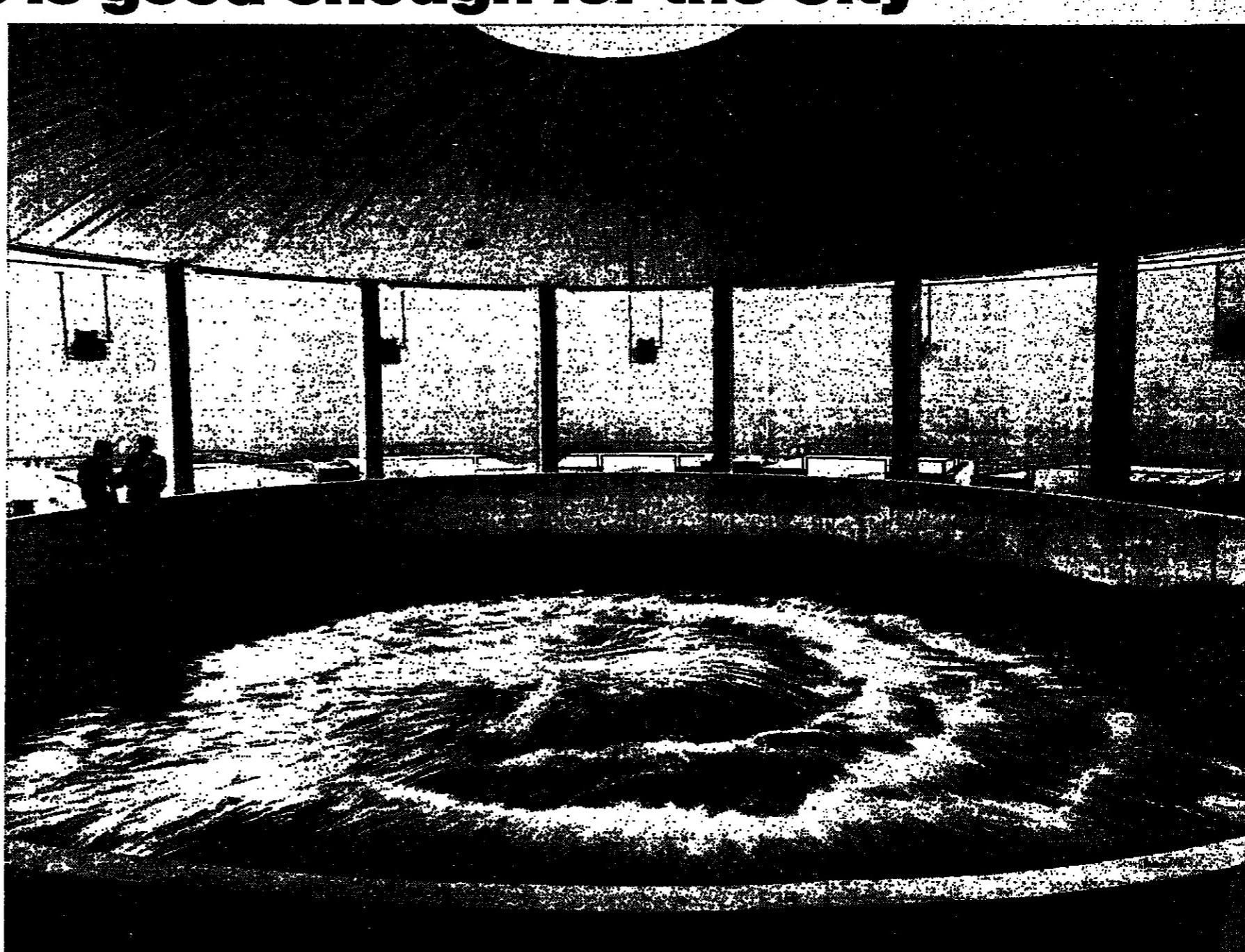
BBC ozone generators were chosen for the new San Fernando Valley treatment plant after a severe evaluation of such factors as ozone concentration, output, efficiency, space requirements, maintenance needs, and price.

The plant's five ozone generators incorporate Brown Boveri electronic control equipment and produce an impressively high ozone concentration of 6%, or 88 g/m³. With pure oxygen as the feedstock, the combined output is 185 kg of ozone per hour.

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As well as supplying highly specialized components and control systems to help meet such vital needs as drinking water and effluent treatment, Brown Boveri play a major role in providing the world with facilities for generating, distributing and utilizing electricity. Whether as main contractor, as head of a consortium, consortium member or supplier of equipment, Brown Boveri are there. Accepting the challenge of the different, the complex and the new—every day and everywhere. And with their worldwide resources committed to the attainment of technical excellence in joint enterprise with others, Brown Boveri know how.

Illustration: Spring basin in the Sipplinger Berg waterworks, Lake Constance. BBC ozone generators are used here in treating water from the lake to make it drinkable.



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EUROPEAN NEWS

Polish company chiefs ruled illegal

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

Nearly 2,000 of Poland's managing directors have no legal right to be doing their jobs, a series of court rulings has established. The Ministry of Justice has now asked for a special session of the Supreme Court to try to resolve the situation.

The point at issue is that, since martial law was imposed in December 1981, only a handful of managers in the country's more than 6,000 enterprises have been appointed through competitive selection procedures.

E. German brown coal gas boosted

By Leslie Collett in Berlin

THE LARGEST chemical plant in East Germany is to expand production of synthetic gas from brown coal, even though the process will greatly increase pollution in one of the country's most densely populated areas.

Herr Erich Mueller, director of the Leuna chemicals group, near Halle, said a plant built in 1927 to produce synthetic gas from brown low temperature coking coal will be "reconstructed" by 1985. It will consume 100,000 tonnes more coking coal than at present. This is expected to lead to annual sulphur dioxide emissions over the area in Saxony some 170,000 tonnes greater than in the Cologne chemical belt, West Germany's most highly polluted region.

Until the early 1970s, East Germany substituted oil and natural gas from the Soviet Union for domestic brown coal, a process reversed after the rise of Soviet energy prices and the limitation of supplies. The synthetic gas is used to produce methanol and is a basis for hydrogen synthesis and chemical fertilisers.

Herr Mueller said the increased use of low temperature coking coal is "difficult and not necessarily popular." It is especially hard, he noted, for workers in the synthesis plant who are confronted with "coal filth" and who see nearby plants using comparatively clean oil.

He explained, however, that the positive side was that the synthetic gas workers have a future.

These are required under a law passed in September of that year.

Hundreds of others have simply been appointed to their jobs by the Government without competition. As a rule, local courts which keep company registers have turned a blind eye to the practice and have entered the new appointees.

Thus, 1,801 new managers were written into company records between January 1982 and the end of last May without going through the proper

procedures. Another 121 were written in, but with a note recording the breach in the law. Only in eight cases did a local court refuse to record such an appointment.

Appeals in one of these latter cases brought the matter to the attention of the Supreme Court last summer which decided that an appointment without a competition was indeed void and could not be recorded.

The Court, in effect, has challenged those in the central Communist party and

Government administration who are unhappy with more democratic procedures designed by economic reformers to bring fresh talent to the top of industry.

The Justice Ministry has now asked the Court to rule on the position of the directors appointed illegally, if only to know whether, for example, their signatures on company documents were still valid under the law. A special session of the Supreme Court was postponed last month

'Casino blitz' follows Italian probe into Mafia money

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN

MORE THAN 30 casino employees and bankers in northern Italy have been arrested in the past few days following an investigation into the "laundering" of Mafia money through casinos in Venice, San Remo, Saint Vincent and Campione.

The inquiry, which has involved more than 2,000 police officers and magistrates, may shed light on the processing of millions of pounds of drug profits and other criminal earnings.

The "Casino blitz" which has dominated Italian headlines since last Friday, was made by special officers of the Guardia di Finanza (Fiscal Police), acting on orders from magistrates in Milan, Turin and Genoa.

By Friday morning, some 19 suspects had been taken into custody, including the president

of a holding company with investments in the casino business. As the weekend progressed two senior bankers had also been brought in for questioning about a number of cheques cleared for casino players and owners.

Details of the casino racket remain sketchy, but it is broad outline here is how it is alleged to have worked:

A "bag man" with underworld funds would saunter into a fashionable casino near St Mark's Square in Venice or at San Remo on the Italian Riviera, or in the Italian-governed enclave of Campione inside Swiss territory.

The money would be exchanged for gambling chips and the carrier would then proceed to a roulette table or perhaps try his hand at chemin-de-fer. He would lose a small amount of money at the tables, throw

up his arms in frustration and decide to retire the chips for "clean" funds.

Unsuspecting tourists at the casinos would later be given the Mafia-deposited money and the operation would be complete. The complicity of banks has not been fully explained, but is believed to involve servicing casino accounts.

In addition to underworld profits from the drug trade, the proceeds from kidnappings are also thought to have found their way into gambling parlours.

Usually, when a ransom is paid the police note the serial numbers on the currency. Exchanging these funds at casinos provides a useful way of laundering them.

The Italian authorities are expected to make a few more arrests before the exercise is concluded and the eventual number may be around 30.

Concern at Lisbon banks hint

BY DIANA SMITH IN LISBON

CONTROVERSY HAS arisen in Lisbon over reports that minimum capital of Esc 2bn (\$10.6m) will be required to open a foreign branch in Portugal when the banking sector becomes accessible to private capital next year. The banks were nationalised in the 1975 revolution.

The Government has not yet made a firm decision on the capital requirement for new foreign or domestic banks or insurance companies proposing to operate in Portugal. But Sr Antonio de Almeida, the Treasury Secretary, has leaked a set of figures in a conversation with the national news agency.

According to Sr Almeida Esc 2bn would be needed for a branch of a foreign bank and Esc 3bn for a locally incorporated bank. An insurance company would need Esc 350m to avoid speculation that could raise or dash bankers' expectations, officials have been particularly reticent about any possible capital figures.

It was stressed in Lisbon yesterday that no decision has yet been taken, nor will it for some time.

The possibility of a Esc 2bn requirement for foreign banks interested in a branch in Portugal has raised eyebrows in Lisbon.

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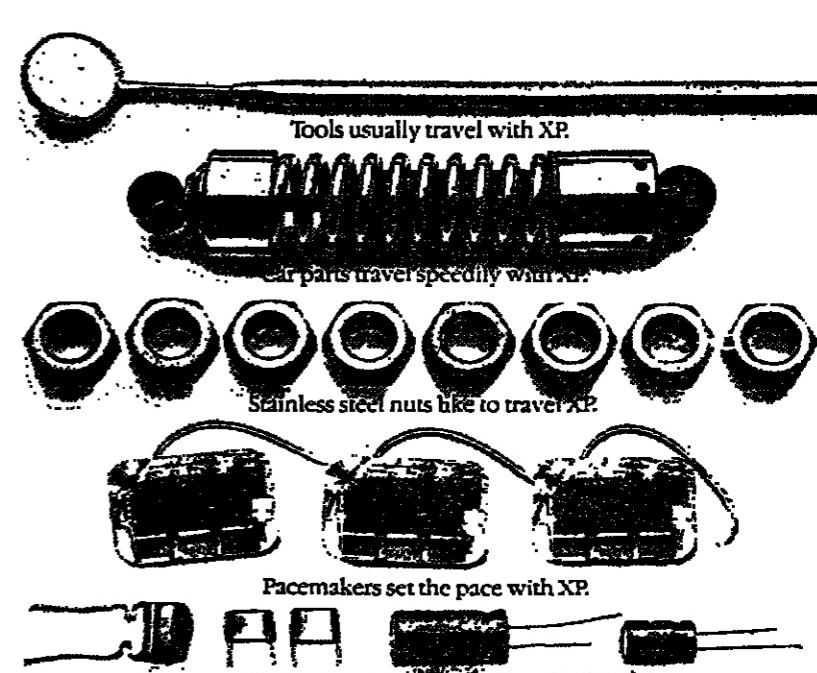
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-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-

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Dutch pay talks resume

By Walter Ellis in Amsterdam

TALKS between the Dutch Government and trades union leaders are due to reopen today to discuss the Cabinet plan to reduce the salary of 700,000 public sector workers by 3 per cent from January 1.

Formal negotiations broke off two weeks ago amid mutual recriminations. The restart was arranged over the weekend after a court ruling that both sides had a duty to the public to ensure the smooth running of public services.

Strikes and go-slows have caused widespread disruption since the breakdown, and the Periodical Publishers' Association asked for a ruling that something be done in order to halt the postal strike that is damaging magazine circulations.

Mr Wim Kok, leader of the FNV, the larger and more hard-line of the two Dutch trade union federations, has said that he is ready to compromise on the cuts question.

The FNV will accept cuts averaging 1.5 per cent in gross salaries next year provided they are shared throughout the public and private sectors. The government line is that 1984 wages have already been decided.

DISQUIET AMONG MOSCOW'S ALLIES

Unrest over missile stationing

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN LONDON AND ANDRIANA IERODIAKONOU IN ATHENS

MOSCOW'S allies are showing some unrest at the imminent deployment of Soviet missiles in parts of Eastern Europe, in response to the arrival of U.S. missiles in Western Europe. The most important sign of disquiet is coming from Czechoslovakia and the most recent

pledge is of considerable political value to Mr Papandreu in dealing with the hard-line ideologues in his own Socialist Party and the pro-Moscow Communist opposition. The Soviet Union has never placed, and is not likely to place nuclear missiles in Bulgaria which is far from Bulgaria.

But the Zhivkov statement is a sign of widening East European sensitivity to the missile issue, foreshadowed to some extent by the forthright position of maverick Romania which has denounced deployment by both sides.

Scinteia, the Romanian party newspaper, yesterday warned both

superpowers to weigh carefully the dangers of deploying new missiles.

Last week President Ceausescu of Romania wrote to West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl urging that the Soviet Union drop its demand that British and French missiles be included in the Geneva arms negotiations and that the West postpone deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles. Herr Kohl called the Ceausescu letter "significant".

There are stirrings of popular anxiety in Czechoslovakia after last month's announcement that new Soviet missiles would be placed there and in East Germany. Rude Pravo, the Prague party newspaper, for some years.

conceded in a long article last week that readers had written in to express their doubts as to whether the Soviet deployment was necessary, whether it should have been announced in advance of the arrival of cruise and Pershing in the West, and whether it would make Czechoslovakia any safer.

The Rude Pravo commentary said Czechoslovakia had been a prime western target for the past 35 years and that Soviet missiles would correct a growing imbalance.

The newspaper, but not its readers, seemed aware that short-range Soviet "Frog" missiles had been in Czechoslovakia with Soviet troops for some years.

W. German boost from exports

By John Davies in Frankfurt

THE WEST German economy is beginning to receive a boost from a revival in exports, according to Deutsche Bank, the country's largest bank.

At the same time the bank voiced a plea for a more stable dollar. It said the dollar had probably become over-valued, but "it hoped there would not be an exaggerated swing in the opposite direction."

Deutsche Bank lent its weight to the view that a recovery in exports could help to sustain economic growth in West Germany next year.

But it also stressed that the strength of economic growth would depend on investment, which in turn would be influenced by monetary and budget policies as well as the level of wage settlements.

The five leading economic research institutes recently said they expected exports to grow about 6 per cent in nominal terms next year.

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Norway faces close vote on cruise

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO

NORWAY'S centre-right coalition faces a close parliamentary vote next week on its policy of support for immediate deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe - barring a last-minute agreement in Geneva.

Two of the coalition's three partners - the Centre and Christian Democrat parties - have in their ranks sceptical MPs who may well

vote against the Government when the Storting (parliament) debates the issue next Monday. Conservative MPs - whose party is the dominant partner in the coalition - will give full backing, as will the four MPs of the far right Progress Party.

Labour, the largest opposition party, is completely opposed to deployment - although the former Labour Government voted for the

original Nato twin-track decision in 1979. Labour's leaders say the situation has changed since then.

Meanwhile, recent public opinion polls show 60 per cent of Norwegians opposed to deployment.

Mr Hans Olav Tungevik, a prominent Christian Democrat MP, yesterday warned of the long-term threat to Nato's solidarity "if we offer last month."

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	9.25	B Hill Samuel	9.25
Allied Irish Bank	9.25	C Hoare & Co.	9.25
Ansbanks	9.25	Dunphy, Keating & Sons	9.25
Henry Anchorage	9.25	Kingsmill, Tait & Co.	9.25
Arbuthnot Latham	9.25	Knowles & Co. Ltd.	9.25
Avon Trust Ltd.	9.25	Lloyds Bank	9.25
Associated Cap. Corp.	9.25	McMillan & Limited	9.25
Banco de Bilbao	9.25	Edward Mansou & Co.	9.25
Bank Hispania BM	9.25	Meshraj and Sons Ltd.	9.25
BCCI	9.25	Midland Bank	9.25
Bank of Ireland	9.25	Morgan Grenfell	9.25
Bank Leumi (UK) plc	9.25	National Bk of Kuwait	9.25
Bank of Cyprus	9.25	Natwest Girobank	9.25
Bank of Scotland	9.25	National Westminster	9.25
Banque Belge Ltd.	9.25	Norwich Gen. Tr.	9.25
Banque du Rhone	9.25	P. & S. Reichen & Co.	9.25
Barclays Bank	9.25	Rothschild & Co.	9.25
Benedict Trust Ltd.	9.25	Rothschild & Sons Ltd.	9.25
Brown Holdings Ltd.	9.25	Royal Trust Co. Canada	9.25
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	9.25	Standard Chartered	9.25
Brown Shipley	9.25	TBC	9.25
CB Bank Nederland	9.25	Trusted Savings Bank	9.25
Canada Permit Trust	10	United Bank of Kuwait	9.25
Castle Court Trust Ltd.	10	United Mercantile Bank	9.25
Cayzer Ltd.	10	Vestas Int'l. Ltd.	9.25
Cedar Holdings	10	Wessex Bank & Corp.	9.25
Charterhouse Jaypet	10	Williams & Glyn's	9.25
Choularton	10	Wintress Secs. Ltd.	9.25
Combank Savings	10	Yorkshire Bank	9.25
Commerzbank	9.25	Members of the Accounting House Committee:	
C. E. Cotes	9.25	7-day deposits 5.5% 1-month 5.75% Short-term 5.85% 12-month	
Comm. Bk. of N. East	9.25	1 Call deposits up to £10,000 5.1% £10,000 and over 5.2%	
Consolidated Credit	9.25	2 Call deposits £10,000 and over 5.2%	
Co-operative Bank	9.25	3 12-day deposits over £1,000 5.4%	
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	9.25	4 Demand deposits 5.4%	
Dumbur & Co. Ltd.	9.25	5 Current accounts 5.4%	
Duncan Lawrie	9.25	6 Money Market Gns. Average 5.625% Effective annual rate 5.625%	
E. T. Trust	10		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	10		
First Nat'l. Bk. Corp.	10		
F. N. S. Soc. Ltd.	10		
Robert Fraser	10		
Grindlays Bank	10		
Guzziness Mahan	10		
Hambros Bank	10		
Herdieble & Gen. Trust	9		

The Board of Management of Akzo N.V. announces that on November 14th, 1983 the results for the third quarter of 1983 were published.

Copies of this quarterly report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Bank PLC Securities Services Department 54 Lombard Street London EC3P 3AH and Midland Bank PLC International Division Securities Services Department 110-114 Cannon Street London EC4N 6AA.



Amherst, November 15th, 1983.

AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION
9% US-Dollar Bonds due 1989
Notice is hereby given to holders of the above Bonds that the redemption instalment of \$2,000,000 due on January 15, 1984 has been entirely affected in the market.
There will be no drawing by lot.
Southfield, Michigan
November 1983

AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION

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work, and off-road vehicles. A really complete range, with an infinite number of versions to choose from. With the load capacity, engine specification, wheelbase length, and the heights that you want. A range combining the research and technology of four big European marques.

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Help the disabled by helping BLESMA. We provide you with donations and information.

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AMERICAN NEWS

Major Texas and Oklahoma banks face loans review

BY WILLIAM HALL IN NEW YORK

U.S. BANK regulators have launched a special examination of the quality of the energy loan portfolios of major banks in Texas and Oklahoma. The move follows mounting concern about the impact of the problems in the domestic oil industry on the small bank.

The examination is the first of its kind in the U.S. coming in the wake of criticism of the way bank regulators handled the collapse of Penn Square bank in July last year. The small Oklahoma bank lost \$160m (£107m) on energy lending and several big banks including Chase Manhattan, Comerica, Illinois and Seafirst, which had bought loans from Penn Square, also reported substantial losses on their energy loan portfolios.

The collapse of Penn Square is regarded as the main reason why Bank of America had to step in and rescue Seafirst, the leading Seattle bank, earlier this year. So far, U.S. banks have made specific loan provisions of more than \$1.5bn on energy lending since the problem first began to surface with the collapse of Penn Square last year.

Poor get poorer in Brazil as IMF discusses terms

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE LEVEL of absolute poverty in Brazil has increased, is increasing, and will increase further, according to figures just published by the Government Statistics Institution, the IBGE.

That assertion will surprise no one who has watched this country of 125m people struggle through the past three years of ever-deepening recession. As a well-known Brazilian writer puts it, this is Belinda's Brazil where part of the population enjoys the living standards of Belgium while the rest suffer on a par with India.

The figures demonstrate unequivocally that the belt-tightening instituted in 1981 has had a dramatic effect on the earnings of all classes.

But it is those who were already near the bottom who are suffering most. In the 12 months up to October 1982, the number of Brazilians earning less than half the official minimum wage of \$73 a month increased by a third to over 10m.

In late 1982, when the census was taken, 41 per cent of the economically active population earned less than the minimum wage, defined as the minimum necessary to support a family of four. The percentage in this category had leapt up from 32 per cent a year earlier.

Now has the middle class escaped? Over the same 12 months, their numbers fell by an estimated 8.5 per cent. The proportion in the top category, earning over \$13,000 a year, slumped by 42 per cent.

Since then the only reliable guide to what has been happening to living standards — for

the rate of inflation.

U.S. army engineers to build Costa Rica roads

OUR LATIN AMERICA EDITOR

THE REAGAN Administration is to send up to 1,000 men from the U.S. Corps of Engineers to build roads and infrastructure on the troubled Costa Rican border with Nicaragua. The decision was taken in late September but over the weekend the under-secretary of defence, Mr Fred IKE, revealed the extent of this new commitment to Costa Rica, which has no standing army.

The Costa Rican Government was approached by the U.S. Administration in July to permit U.S. army engineers to improve communications in the mountains and forest-covered border with Nicaragua. This was seen as a further move to tighten the U.S.-imposed siege on Nicaragua, aiding the counter-revolutionary forces fighting the Sandinista government from Costa Rica.

The Costa Rican Government at first refused. However, U.S. pressure was such that it agreed

Victory for left in Peru's municipal elections

BY DOREEN GILLESPIE IN LIMA

PRESIDENT Fernando Belaunde's Popular Action (Acción Popular) party was defeated in nationwide municipal elections held in Peru on Sunday in the midst of the country's worst-ever economic crisis.

The victory went to the left-of-centre Apra party which swept the board in the majority of districts outside Lima and the United Left coalition of seven socialist and communist parties — Izquierda Unida. The United Left's leader, Sr Alfonso Barrantes, was elected to the key political post of Mayor of Lima, with more than one-third of the votes, according to preliminary results.

Sr Barrantes, a 55-year-old labour lawyer from Cajamarca in the northern Sierra describes himself as a Marxist independent. Western diplomats said he would be the first freely-elected Marxist mayor of a South American capital.

During his campaign he promised breakfasts for undernourished children, and running water and improved hygiene in shantytowns. He also offered to improve Lima's chaotic transport system and garbage collection.

Sr Barrantes has rejected the violence of the Maoist Path terrorist guerrillas, who call themselves Peru's authentic communist party.

Unwinnable war in El Salvador

BY ROBERT GRAHAM LATIN AMERICAN EDITOR, RECENTLY IN SAN SALVADOR

A SALVADOREAN Army checkpoint slows traffic on the Pan-American highway, 20 minutes out of the capital, San Salvador. As my papers are checked I explain that I am heading for Tenancingo, a small town about 10 miles off the highway, recently occupied by the guerrillas and now reportedly in Government hands. "All quiet up there: no guerrillas," volunteers a soldier. Beneath his battle fatigues he is wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan: "Communism stops here."

Less than two miles away from the checkpoint along a dirt road hardened by the onset of the dry season, four armed guerrillas step casually from a banana clump. They stop the car and ask for a lift, only mildly curious about journalistic credentials. They are more interested in sleep after patrolling all night.

Tenancingo is abandoned and torn: the civilian population fled when Government forces resorted to heavy bombing to take it back. But beside the church, the guerrillas have set up their headquarters. "I thought you had been forced out," I said to the guerrilla leader, surprised after the news of its well-publicised departure. "Well, we had to," he said, grinning like a naughty schoolboy. "They can take it any time they want, but they cannot hold it."

The three-year-old civil war in El Salvador is not going well

for the right-wing, U.S.-backed Government of acting President Alvaro Magana. A large slice of the countryside has fallen under direct control of the guerrilla forces, whose five main organisations are grouped under the FMLN liberation movement. Other areas like Tenancingo have become an uneasy no-man's land: the civilian population forced into temporary or semi-permanent refugee status.

Training is poor and the Reagan Administration has been only partially successful in raising the standard. There is a Congressional limit of 55 U.S. military advisers operating inside El Salvador. To get round this, a scheme was set up earlier this year to train batches of the Salvadoran army in neighbouring Honduras.

The 12,000-strong El Salvador armed forces are spread too thinly and lack the fire-power to hold positions against constant guerrilla attacks in the north-eastern and southern part of the country. Guerrilla strength is up to 7,000 men and women. By the normal numerical standards used when conventional forces are fighting guerrillas, the army has only about one-third the number necessary to contain an insurgency.

There are other handicaps apart from mere numbers. The El Salvador army is poorly equipped, despite its American backing. Congressional restraints on U.S. military credits imposed a limit of \$136m on 1983 fiscal year assistance (already two-thirds of all U.S. military assistance to Central America), while for 1984 it is unlikely that the \$84m proposed will be accepted.

The FMLN, which groups a range of ideologies from revolutionary Marxism to social democracy, is the strongest and most determined of the guerrilla organisations. The FMLN, with its allies, the Democratic Front (FDR), has insisted on participating in elections next spring, but the peace commis-

sion has been unable to offer it

any guarantee of physical safety

d'Aubuisson, who, along with his allies in the armed forces, has blocked any meaningful negotiations with the guerrillas.

At present the guerrillas can sustain the conflict but not conclusively win it. Equally, for the El Salvador Government and its U.S. allies, there can be nothing more than a holding operation at the military level.

But the Government is not only doing poorly on the military level, it is also significantly failing to win hearts and minds. The civilian population may have reservations about supporting the guerrillas; but the Government has provided little incentive for

Almost 40,000 persons have so far died in this brutal conflict, mainly innocent civilians, many of whom have been killed off the battlefield in callous murders. Neither side is blameless, but the army and its death squads have been responsible for the majority.

The Government might be described as its own worst enemy if it were not perhaps misleading to talk of a Government. President Magana is not only an inept president and though elected, he is powerless to control the army or the death squads. The elected assembly is in the hands of the powerful

right-wing officer, Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, who, along with his allies in the armed forces, has blocked any meaningful attempts in the assembly to legislate on land reform, a fundamental issue in this overpopulated country where land ownership remains in the hands of a small élite. Under this atmosphere the Salvadoran military are once again champing at the bit, with open talk of another coup, which could make the conflict more intractable.

right-wing officer, Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, who, along with his allies in the armed forces, has blocked any meaningful negotiations with the guerrillas.

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TECHNOLOGY

HOW TO TRAIN THE WORKSTATION TO TAKE THE STRAIN

'It does your work for you'

XIONICS, a small UK electronic office specialist, has developed a novel solution to one of the principal barriers obstructing the widespread use of personal computers in business—the fact that they are often inconvenient, if not downright tedious to use.

Personal computers, of course, are intended to automate office work; what Xionics—whose clients include BP Oil, Calor Gas, Midland Bank and the Cabinet Office—has done is to automate the use of the computer.

Mike Bevan, Xionics' managing director, describes it as: "training the workstation to carry out routine work, and it works off the principle that a keystroke memory, a single key, can be programmed to carry out a series of operations. In word processing, for example, standard paragraphs can be recalled for inclusion in a new document by keying in one or two letter codes."

The Xionics development, Keystroke Procedural Language (KPL), takes this idea and develops it. Whole com-

Professional Personal Computing

puter operations—for example, calling a database, extracting information, processing the results and printing in a regular format—can be activated by pressing a single key.

According to Xionics: "The ability to be conscious of dates and times is built in. This relates to how things are in real life. A particular job may be done because it is Friday afternoon, or the 30th of the month, because some report is two weeks overdue or a project is late."

"KPL procedures can examine and compare dates and times. They can vary their actions, or cause other procedures to be carried out depending on what they find."

So KPL generates an auto-

matic sequence of operations with intelligence built in. KPL is a programming language comprising 20 or so high level commands and it has to be learned but Mike Bevan insists that the executive has to carry out the programming.

ICI's Mond Division in Runcorn has been using Xionics' system as part of their experiments in office automation and report favourably on KPL. Mr Winston Sherman, Mond's office technology manager, says the system is valuable and should save users a considerable amount of time.

One of his assistants, with responsibilities for supporting the Mond executives taking part in the project, was equally positive: "It is amazing what you can do with it. It really does

More on 01-636 0105.

your work for you. One of my responsibilities is to update a number of user files daily and KPL carries out these routine data processing tasks for me."

Xionics has a long list of office utilities which it can provide for its users but Mike Bevan believes that KPL is the single most important user facility ever developed by Xionics.

A level of flexibility can be built into the system either during the initial programming stage or after the program has gone live. If, for example, a manager decided he or she wanted only six of the 12 reports that the work station had been "trained" to collate and print, a simple menu could be built in to allow selection.

Xionics is providing KPL free to users of its bigger workstations (those with 256K of memory) and has no plans to make it available to users of other systems. The user commands are very simple and powerful," Mike Bevan argues, "but the programming goes right down into the machine code making it very complicated to transfer to other systems."

More on 0734 585242.

THE FRENCH oil industry is showing renewed interest in technical collaboration with Venezuela to develop the South American country's vast reserves of heavy crude oils in and around the Orinoco river basin. This follows the completion of a FFr 250m facility in Lyon which integrates and tests a wide range of systems to process heavy oils and residuals.

The facility, which looks like a mini-refinery of the future able to process up to 20,000 tons of heavy crudes and residuals a year, was opened last Thursday by M Jean Arnoux, the French Secretary of State for Energy. The project, called ASVAHL (association pour la valorisation des huiles lourdes) and grouping together Elf Aquitaine and Total, the two large French oil companies, with the French petroleum institute IFP is a showcase of French oil processing and refining technologies. As such, it is designed not only to help provide new solutions for the domestic refining industry but also to promote abroad, especially in countries like Venezuela and Canada rich in heavy oils, French technologies and services.

Indeed, the project when it was launched four years ago was already closely connected with a technical accord between France and Venezuela in the heavy oil field. Elf was also contemplating at the time a supply agreement with Venezuela involving between 1m and 2m tons of heavy oil a year. But the collapse of oil prices put these deals in a state of suspended animation.

However, despite the continuing softness of oil prices making development of very heavy crudes economically unviable, the start-up of ASVAHL has prompted the French industry to revive its contacts with the Venezuelans.

M Jacques Bosquet, deputy project manager at ASVAHL, disclosed he had been on a French mission to Venezuela last month. He said the purpose of the visit was to renew contacts between the two countries and added that Venezuela may be supplying a small quantity of its Bosquet oil (one of the heaviest crudes with a density of 10.5 API) for testing and processing at ASVAHL.

The contacts with Venezuela come at a time when West Germany is also testing new technologies for heavy crudes and has already entered into a supply agreement with Venezuela. Some of the international oil companies are also pressing ahead with their new techniques.

Shell, especially, has been active in heavy crudes and has set up a demonstration plant in Venezuela.

French oil industry officials at the ASVAHL opening said it was important for France to stay at the forefront of technological developments in heavy crudes and residuals processing as one of the traditional strengths of the industry has

Networking

Wordplex links typewriters

INTRODUCED BY Wordplex is Multilink, a networking facility that allows up to 15 electronic typewriters to be connected to an 80-160M terminal with Winchester discs and facilities for editing and filing the material typed.

Each typewriter and the terminal are connected to their own "node" box and the boxes are linked by twisted pair cable to form the ring. The typists can create file names under which their material is stored on the main terminal and they can retrieve it at any time by a simple command. Printing can be centralized or at the typewriters.

Certain models in the Olympia, Facit and Adler typewriter ranges can currently use the system; others are being examined. Price of the controller and network is about £11,000. More on 0734 585242.

Peripherals

Keyboard design

AEG TELEFUNKEN has launched a custom design full keyboard service in the UK.

The units are manufactured by Telefunkens Electronic GmbH and use diaphragm, membrane or flat foil techniques to provide high reliability and "absolute user safety."

The switching arrangements can be made to suit customers' keyboarding requirements. More on Slough 872101.

MINI REFINERY OF THE FUTURE

French look to Venezuelan oil

BY PAUL BETTS, RECENTLY IN LYON

THE FRENCH oil industry is showing renewed interest in technical collaboration with Venezuela to develop the South American country's vast reserves of heavy crude oils in and around the Orinoco river basin.

The ASVAHL project has two basic technical aims. The first is to develop and test techniques to enable very heavy crudes to be transported from often difficult and remote areas and to enhance their quality. Treatment of these crudes is generally done on the site of extraction. The techniques must remain as simple as possible and the treatment facility must be compact as possible," explained M Bosquet.

The second aim is the deep conversion of residuals. Officials at ASVAHL made no secret that in the short term at least while energy markets remain soft there will be more scope for residual technologies than for on-site treatment of very heavy crudes. ASVAHL itself is supplied by residuals from the large neighbouring refinery of Feyzin. But the costs of building a facility on an industrial scale to treat residuals remains nonetheless staggering. "About \$1bn for a one million ton a year plant," says M Bosquet.

"But if you don't invest in developing the technologies now, you won't be ready when they will become needed," remarked another ASVAHL official.

Among the main processes being tested at the French demonstration plant is an advanced one-step de-asphalting system, salt and water extraction systems for heavy crudes, atmospheric distillation and vacuum topping, visbreaking and hydrovisbreaking, and more performing catalysts.

Boost

But if the project is to succeed in its twin aims of boosting the sale of licenses of French energy processes abroad and providing new technological solutions for the domestic industry, it will continue to require heavy financial support according to M Jean-Claude Chauvel, the manager of the ASVAHL venture. The project was backed financially by the EEC and the Fonds de Soutien aux Hydrocarbures, the French government fund which subsidizes major domestic hydrocarbon experimental ventures. Indeed,

projects like ASVAHL or the recent deep offshore drilling campaign in the Mediterranean would probably never have been undertaken were it not for the financial support of the special fund.

M Chauvel says it will cost FFr 80m a year to operate the demonstration plant. He hopes the special French fund and the EEC will continue to chip in with financial aid. The French government, however, has already cut back the budget of the hydrocarbons fund.

The EEC, which will soon be coming under the presidency of the French, is also going through its own share of budgetary problems.

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Datacomms

Micom-Borer local area network

A NEW local area network designed for the non-technical user in mind has been developed by Micom-Borer of Reading, Berkshire. The company says that Insetnet takes advantage of the fact that the same twisted pair of wires used for connecting telephones within a building can also carry data.

This means that the cost of installing a data network can be kept low. The network also has X25 links for packet access, concentrator links for remote terminal clusters and connections for a wide area network. More information on 0734 585242.

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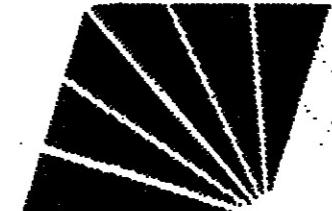
Software

Sinclair's prolog

SINCLAIR has expanded its range of educational software with an advanced programming language, Micro-Prolog. It is a microcomputer version of Prolog which is used by the Japanese in sophisticated artificial intelligence machines.

Through traditional computer languages can a set of sequences of instructions be communicated to the computer, this language communicates using familiar concepts and ideas.

Micro-Prolog is available in cassette form with a user manual and primer at a cost of £24.95 including VAT. It is available via mail order from Sinclair, Stanhope Road, Cumberley, Surrey.



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OVERSEAS NEWS

Life for former Burmese official

Retired Brigadier-General Tin Oo, once tipped as a possible successor to Burma's autocratic leader Ne Win, has been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of misusing public funds, writes Chris Sherwell in Singapore.

The sentence, handed down by a Rangoon court on each of five different charges, represents a humiliating climax in the downfall of a man who, until he was stripped of all his posts only six months ago, was widely reckoned to be number three in Burma's hierarchy.

At that time he was a senior official in the Burma Socialist Programme Party, a key member of the powerful state council and a high-ranking general in the army, which still controls the country.

A string of dismissals followed his departure, notably in the intelligence community, fuelled by some as contributions to the appalling economic lapses last month which led to the North Korean terrorist bombing which killed 17 South Koreans, including four cabinet ministers.

China spy claim

China has renewed its allegations that the U.S. paid a prominent Communist newspaper editor in Hong Kong to spy for it, writes Mark Baker in Peking. Mr Li Changwu, 62, who edited the influential Peking-owned New Evening Post, was jailed for ten years in April, but was released mysteriously in July. The latest allegations come from the official China news service.

Arco exploration

Atlantic Richfield of the U.S. will continue its oil explorations in the South China Sea area where a drill ship sank last month, China's official Xinhua news agency said yesterday. AP reports from Peking, Arco will send two drilling ships to the area to continue work under a contract signed with China in September 1982, Xinhua said.

Defection to Taiwan

Taiwan received its third military defector from China in 12 months yesterday when a young Chinese airforce officer landed his MiG-17 at Chiang Kai-shek international airport, near Taipei, writes Bob King in Taipei. Wang Xuecheng, 23, took his aircraft from a base near Shanghai. He will receive \$1.5m in gold as a reward for his defection.

Philippines charges

Customs officials in the Philippines yesterday charged an opposition leader, six business company presidents and 26 other people with smuggling and hiding dollars abroad, the government announced. AP reports from Manila. The presidential palace said charges were filed against the 33 with the Manila prosecutor's office. It said one was former Sr Dominador Aytona, board chairman of Alliance Textile Mills.

Zimbabwe prices up

Zimbabwe prices rose nearly 16 per cent for low income groups during the month of September according to official figures, Tony Hawkins reports from Harare. This was the result of a 27 per cent jump in food prices. High income group prices rose less than 5 per cent.

Harare 'regret'

The Zimbabwe Government expressed regret yesterday at the detention of five British women teachers along with at least 1,000 black women and schoolgirls in an army and police campaign against vice, AP reports from Harare. The Britains were arrested at the municipal theatre in Gweru Friday night.

Ceasefire falters as Druze men shell Christians in Beirut

BY PATRICK COCKBURN IN BEIRUT

THE DECREASING effectiveness of Lebanon's seven-week ceasefire was emphasised yesterday when Druze militiamen shelled and rocketed Christians east Beirut for the first time since the truce was signed at the end of September.

The upsurge in artillery duels and sniping in the mountains above Beirut is increasing fears that the postponement of today's visit of President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon to Damascus will have a serious effect on security.

Talks with the Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad, have been put off because he has appended but the Syrian leader's inability to see President Gemayel is another blow to hopes of preventing a resumption of the fighting.

Fears are growing in the Lebanese capital that unless the Government can take some initiative, the ceasefire may soon collapse. In the light of repeated U.S. threats to retaliate against the Syrians and their allies, a breakdown of the truce would probably lead to greater U.S. military support for the Lebanese army, including strikes.

American F-14 Tomcat jets from the aircraft carrier Eisenhower made passes over Beirut yesterday as Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's new Middle East envoy, held a press conference. The F-14 Tomcat jets from the aircraft carrier Eisenhower made passes over Beirut yesterday as Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's new Middle East envoy, held a press conference.

Snap elections called in Northern Territory

BY COLIN CHAPMAN IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S Northern Territory government has called a snap election for December 3. The move comes hard on the heels of the weekend decision by the national Government that Ayers Rock, the famous landmark, would be returned to aboriginal ownership.

The Darwin government also fears that Canberra is about to declare Stage Two of the Kakadu National Park, which would end any further uranium mining, particularly at the Jablulu reserve.

The chief minister of the Northern Territory, Mr Paul Everingham, is due to visit the Kakadu National Park, which includes Ayers Rock.

Hawke may try to heal rift with Asean on Thai visit

BY CHRIS SHERWELL IN SINGAPORE

A FOUR-DAY visit to Thailand starting this weekend by Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, has assumed unusual importance as a result of the latest angry diplomatic exchanges between Canberra and the five-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

The row blew up in September over Kampuchea, but has taken a more insulting and personal tone over the past week and threatens to strain relations impossibly unless tempers can be soothed during Mr Hawke's visit.

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Elections, and the Queen, for Bangladesh

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT IN DAKHA

Hundreds of tree trunks have been painted white 45 miles north of the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka. A mud track, transformed into a metalled road leads to a model village with brightly painted public buildings and symmetrical mud and straw huts. The local railway station is resplendent with fresh paint and a new concrete platform.

The Bangladeshi economy is in the early stage of recovery after two or three bad years, thanks to good crops and a tough attitude to public sector prices and subsidies in last year's budget. Inflation is regarded by the Government as only marginally too high at nearly 12 per cent but population growth is still out of control at over 2.5 per cent. Bangladesh has a population nearly 100m.

The Government has decentralised jute and textile mills and plans are being finalised for privatising two banks and permitting private sector participation in business. Private sector investment has picked up but Ministers are still waiting anxiously for signs of industrial growth. GDP growth was only 1.2 per cent after allowing for population growth in 1982-83 and is likely to be about 2.5 per cent in the current year.

Last night the Queen arrived in New Delhi and her stay in Bangladesh is of key political importance to General Hossein Ershad, the 53-year-old army officer who seized power in a coup 20 months ago and who now hopes to be elected President during the coming year.

Although there has been no economic miracle, Bangladesh is no longer regarded by international agencies as the basket case referred to by Dr Henry Kissinger 10 years ago.

The country's international image will also be boosted by a visit later this week by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, a major Islamic foreign minister, considered major for being fat and watched a cultural show which included a song developed from one of the many poems he has written.

"In the past the army could not integrate. We have made progress and come to the help of the Government," he declared. "We must work out a way for the army to be involved in administration."

This view goes to the heart of the dilemma which could pitch Bangladesh back from the threshold of a slow but real

People are getting food but economic recovery into a depression they are shouting and have truculent and possibly bloody upheaval. Young army officers in particular are searching about what they call the "romanticism of socialism and the inefficiencies of the public sector." The possibility that they might try to stage a coup against Gen Ershad before he turns himself into a civilian president is a constant subject of talk in Dhaka.

Gen Ershad's plan is to hold local government elections in areas like the one the Queen is visiting in three stages (without involving political parties) by March next year. He wants to hold the presidential election after that, with martial law still in force and with him remaining chief martial law administrator.

Parliament is suspended at present and the two main political groupings, the Awami League and the Bangladesh National Party, whose activities have been controlled since early last year, want the parliamentary elections before the presidential vote so they can have a chance of removing Gen Ershad from the driving seat.

His next step will be to wend various policy committees into a political party which he will then lead, stepping down at the same time from his job as chief of army staff. He has calculated but risked gamble, and it is by no means certain that he will be able to make the switch without losing the backing of the army.

Meanwhile, Reuter reports from Peking, Chinese and British officials opened a sixth round of discussions on the future of Hong Kong. As usual the content of the talks remained a closely-guarded secret, but a brief joint statement is expected today.

CONTINUING demand for Hong Kong's electronic products and garments remained the primary fuel for the colony's recovery last month. The latest figures for the first 10 months of this year showed that the value of the colony's exports to the U.S. increased by 34 per cent to HK\$30.3bn. This compared with an increase in all domestic exports of 20 per cent to HK\$72.6bn for the same period, and an increase of 19 per cent for re-exports to HK\$38.6bn.

recovery. Clothing exports to all markets increased by HK\$2.8bn or 34 per cent. China alone bought two-thirds more than in the previous year—an increase worth HK\$44.9m—out of a total increase in exports to Peking of more than 50 per cent.

Textiles accounted for a large part of Hong Kong's steady

overall business between the mainland and the colony continued to grow. China remains the biggest re-export market and source of imports.

Although textiles were the mainstay, the fastest growth sector was the telecommunications category, up 36 per cent to HK\$5.7bn.

THE ALTERNATIVE

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Dow to set up Saudi venture to make insulation foam

BY CARLA RAPORT

DOW CHEMICAL, one of the world's largest chemical companies, plans to establish its first manufacturing base in Saudi Arabia in a deal worth \$30m.

The new plant, which will produce extruded polystyrene foam insulation, will be constructed as part of a joint venture with E. A. Juffali and Sons, a petrochemical Saudi Arabian industrial group. The new project will be managed by the Arabian Chemical Company, a new joint venture between Juffali and Dow.

The output of the plant, which is to be built in the Jeddah industrial area, is intended primarily for the Saudi Arabian market. Extruded polystyrene is mainly used for insulation in buildings such as office blocks and houses. The plant is expected to come on stream in 1985. Dow said yesterday that plant capacity could be "easily increased at minimal cost, but would not do so."

Nigerian petrochemicals

BY PETER BLACKBURN IN LAGOS

DESPITE cuts in new project spending, Nigeria's petrochemical development programme—one of the world's largest, worth some \$2bn—is moving ahead, according to Mr Odunsi Lolomari, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation's petro-chemicals general manager.

Two civil works contracts have recently been awarded. Although there has been slippage, phase one of the programme should be completed by the end of 1985, six months behind schedule, he said. Phase one involves construc-

tion of petrochemicals complexes near the Warri and Kaduna refineries to produce feedstocks to make plastics, synthetic fibres, tyres, detergents and paint solvents.

South Korea's Daewoo Corporation was awarded an \$80m civil works contract for polypropylene, carbon black and alkylating plants at the petrochemicals complex near Warri in Bendel State.

Stirling Civil Engineering of the UK also was awarded a civil and mechanical works contract worth \$31m for a linear alkyl benzene plant at Kaduna.

Algeria is boosting the world's LPG supply. Francis Ghiles explains why

Arzew plant threatens overcapacity

THIS MONTH will see the start of Algeria's largest liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plant. Ishikawajima Harima Heavy Industries is building it at Arzew, the country's major oil and gas centre on the coast near the western provincial capital of Oran.

The first of four 1m tonnes-a-year LPG production units will start up in November to be followed by three others during 1984. Altogether they will increase the capacity of Algeria's state oil and gas monopoly, Sonatrach, by 4m tonnes a year. This should enable Sonatrach to increase exports from around 1.5m tonnes this year to a better estimate figure of 1.9m tonnes in 1984 and up to 5.5m tonnes by 1986. The extent to which the new capacity is utilised will depend on the volume of LPG produced.

The impact of the new Arzew capacity will have on world LPG markets will be significant since about 15m tonnes of LPG are traded internationally every year—about 13m of which are imported by Japan. It will put Algeria second only to Saudi Arabia in terms of LPG export potential.

However, there is a 70 per cent chance that by next year LPG production will exceed demand in the premium markets, according to a recently completed report on "LPG

	ALGERIAN LPG PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS											
	1983			1984			1985			1986		
	Low	Best	High	Low	Best	High	Low	Best	High	Low	Best	High
Total production	1.7	2.2	2.7	2.2	3.2	3.9	2.5	4.0	4.8	3.2	5.0	7.2
Domestic demand	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.8
LPG exports	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.9	2.8	1.6	2.6	4.5	2.0	3.5	5.5

Source: Data and Decisions

Markets and Prices — The Critical Years, 1982-86" by Data and Decisions*. Premium markets are those where LPG is traditionally commanded premium prices, for example for home heating.

Once that premium market is satisfied, the risk of a sharp fall in the price of LPG, which would then be competing with naphtha as an ethylene feedstock for the petrochemical industry, is considerable. Such a decline in price would, in effect, allow European and Japanese petrochemical companies to set to the LPG price.

LPG consists of both butane and propane. But, as butane is increasingly used in European refineries as an alternative to lead derivatives in enhancing octane values, as low lead levels are increasingly imposed, its premium over that of propane is being established.

LPG is extracted either from crude oil, as is generally the

case in Saudi Arabia or from gas as is the case in the U.S. and Algeria. The total world market for LPG stands at around 100m tonnes a year with the U.S. both the largest producer (34m tonnes in 1982) and consumer (about 35m tonnes).

Future supply-demand balance for LPG is more affected by uncertainties about supplied than demand, as LPG production is wholly governed by crude oil and gas production which, in turn, is linked to energy demand and hence world economic activity. Such uncertainties are enhanced by Saudi Arabia's role, since 1983, as Opec's major swing producer of crude oil as the report stresses.

As the Kingdom's production of crude declined dramatically last winter, Saudi authorities cut existing LPG contracts by 40 per cent. The result was a sharp increase in LPG prices, from \$245 a tonne in

November 1982 to \$280 in May 1983.

This increase was all the more ironic as it happened at a time when crude oil prices declined from \$34 to \$29 a barrel, an event which, under the Saudi contract formula, should have reduced the price of LPG to about \$200 a tonne.

The Japanese, meanwhile, who will be the biggest importers of LPG for the foreseeable future, have been busy diversifying their sources away from Gulf producers. They have won many contracts in Algeria in recent years and view the North African market as important.

This squares with Algeria's constant preoccupation with diversifying its foreign trading partners. Sonatrach has been exporting LPG and condensates to Japan—the natural gas it produces is, for the time, ruled out because of distance—and can expect to increase its sales to Japan in the coming years.

Algeria tries hard to balance its trade with its major partners, and Japanese companies know that their success in winning Algerian contacts is, to a degree, predicated on the volume of LPG and condensates they buy from Sonatrach.

The Data and Decisions study puts the best estimate of Algerian LPG exports in 1984 at 1.9m tonnes. When this figure is set against a high estimate of 2.8m tonnes and a low of 1.2m, the degree of uncertainty is obvious.

In a report submitted to the ITC, the recording industry estimated losses of \$515m in 1982 for 716m counterfeit records and tapes sold in foreign markets. The group is urging passage of reciprocity legislation which would give protection to intellectual property rights and is asking the State Department to seek strengthened worldwide policing of stolen and counterfeit sound recording.

The growing practice of theft affects not only U.S.-based companies, the industry group said, but their foreign subsidiaries, divisions, joint ventures and licensees.

In a country-by-country run-down of violations, based on 1982 data collected by the International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers, the report alleges one of the worst offenders is Singapore where an estimated 70% counterfeit and pirate sound recordings were seized by 1982.

In Indonesia 40m counterfeit and pirate tapes were manufactured and sold with an estimated market value of \$75 million.

Counterfeit and pirate tapes constituted about 25 per cent of the market in Korea, 10 per cent in Thailand, 40 per cent in Malaysia, 40 per cent in the Philippines and 35 per cent in Taiwan.

Illegal discs and tapes constitute about 70 to 85 per cent of the market in most of the East Asian countries, with Egypt being the most important market. The local Egyptian record industry indicates that there are two major pirate manufacturers in Egypt, both known to the police, but authorities have yet to move against the counterfeiters, the report says.

The report says that the Chinese medical authorities are keen on the top end of the diagnostic equipment market and that there are opportunities for joint venture deals and technology transfer agreements. Decisions on purchasing are made centrally by the China Chemicals Import and Export Corporation, Shinochem, but a crucial element in the purchasing decisions are made by the country's six major medical colleges.

Worldwide Medical Equipment, Hospital Supplies and Pharmaceutical Markets in China, Worldwide Medical Market, Price \$55 (UK and Europe); \$50 (rest of the world). P.O. Box 7, Chichester, West Sussex.

Japan dominates the medical equipment imports market and last year exported \$69.5m out of total Chinese imports of \$20m from the non-Communist world. Other leading exporters were Hong Kong, the U.S. and West Germany, all of which were among substantial importers of Chinese medical products.

The report says that while the Chinese medical authorities are keen on the top end of the diagnostic equipment market and that there are opportunities for joint venture deals and technology transfer agreements. Decisions on purchasing are made centrally by the China Chemicals Import and Export Corporation, Shinochem, but a crucial element in the purchasing decisions are made by the country's six major medical colleges.

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In the rest of Europe, the industry names three other alleged offenders: Greece, \$12m in counterfeit items, nearly 77 per cent of the market; Portugal, 4.5m counterfeit or pirated tapes, with a 20 per cent market share; Italy, 33 per cent of the tapes and 5 per cent of the discs sold were counterfeit at a value of \$21.2m.

Toyo Kogyo considers U.S. vehicle plant

By Charles Smith, Far East Editor in Tokyo

Japan's third largest car manufacturer, Toyo Kogyo, confirmed yesterday that it is conducting a general study of the possibility of manufacturing motor vehicles in the U.S. The study has been in progress since early 1982, and no firm date has been set for its completion.

Toyo Kogyo denied a report in the Japanese press that it is considering a detailed plan to produce cars in Tennessee.

The company has not got as far as considering the location of a plant in the U.S., a company spokesman said.

Toyo Kogyo's stock is 25 per cent equity stake in Toyo Kogyo.

Toyo Kogyo exported 150,000 cars to the U.S. in 1982 and expects to ship the same number this year. The company also sells between 70,000 and 80,000 trucks a year in the U.S.

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China 'to be big market for medical equipment'

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS

CHINA is projected to become the world's largest market for medical equipment by the year 2000 according to a report published last week which argues that there is considerable scope for sales of advanced imported medical equipment.

It argues that with the pattern of serious illness in China becoming similar to the industrialised West and an increase in the number of non-traditional doctors, there will be greater demand for electromedical equipment, medical instruments and X-ray equipment.

The report by WorldWide Medical Markets (WWM), a West Sussex-based research group, points out that China has a large balance of trade surplus in medical and pharmaceutical products, with a substantial trade in bulk pharmaceuticals sold to Japan. Last year the trade surplus in the pharmaceuticals sector was \$121m and in medical equipment the surplus was \$42m achieved by a massive surplus in mattresses and bedding exports.

WWM says that while China now is a small market for medical equipment, the modernisation of the country's health services will lead to con-

"If this is an example of Government's reaction to people who are trying to export in order to earn much-needed foreign exchange for the country, I can see that those of us who do not have to export will soon stop exporting," Mr Messado said.

Mr Seaga's action is prompted by a growing hunger for hard currency for the cash-starved Jamaican economy and by the need to close the widening trade gap. Jamaica's trade deficit last year reached US\$619.2m, which was US\$116.1m more than in 1981.

The threat of prosecution follows hard on complaints from exporters about having difficulties in obtaining adequate hard currency to finance imports of raw materials. Mr Douglas Vass, the Industry Minister, said recently that the business community was holding import licences valued at US\$288m for the rest of this year but that the Government had only \$179m in assured funds.

According to Mr Seaga, in letters of warning sent to offending exporters, outstanding payment total \$60m. He said the delinquent exporters must surrender their hard currency earnings to the central bank within 90 days of delivery.

The traders could face fines of up to US\$100,000 or jail terms of up to 10 years.

The island's exporters have described the Prime Minister's letter and threat as "quite offensive," saying the stipulated 90-day period was too short. Mr Geoffrey Messado, president of the Exporters' Association, said the requirement "makes no sense."

Jamaican exporters given warning on hard currency

BY CANUTE JAMES IN KINGSTON

A PUBLIC ROW has erupted between the Jamaican Government and the island's exporters over threats by Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister and Finance Minister, to prosecute traders who have violated the exchange control regulations by not converting their hard currency earnings into Jamaican dollars in the stipulated 90-day period.

According to Mr Seaga, in letters of warning sent to offending exporters, outstanding payment total \$60m. He said the delinquent exporters must surrender their hard currency earnings to the central bank within 90 days of delivery.

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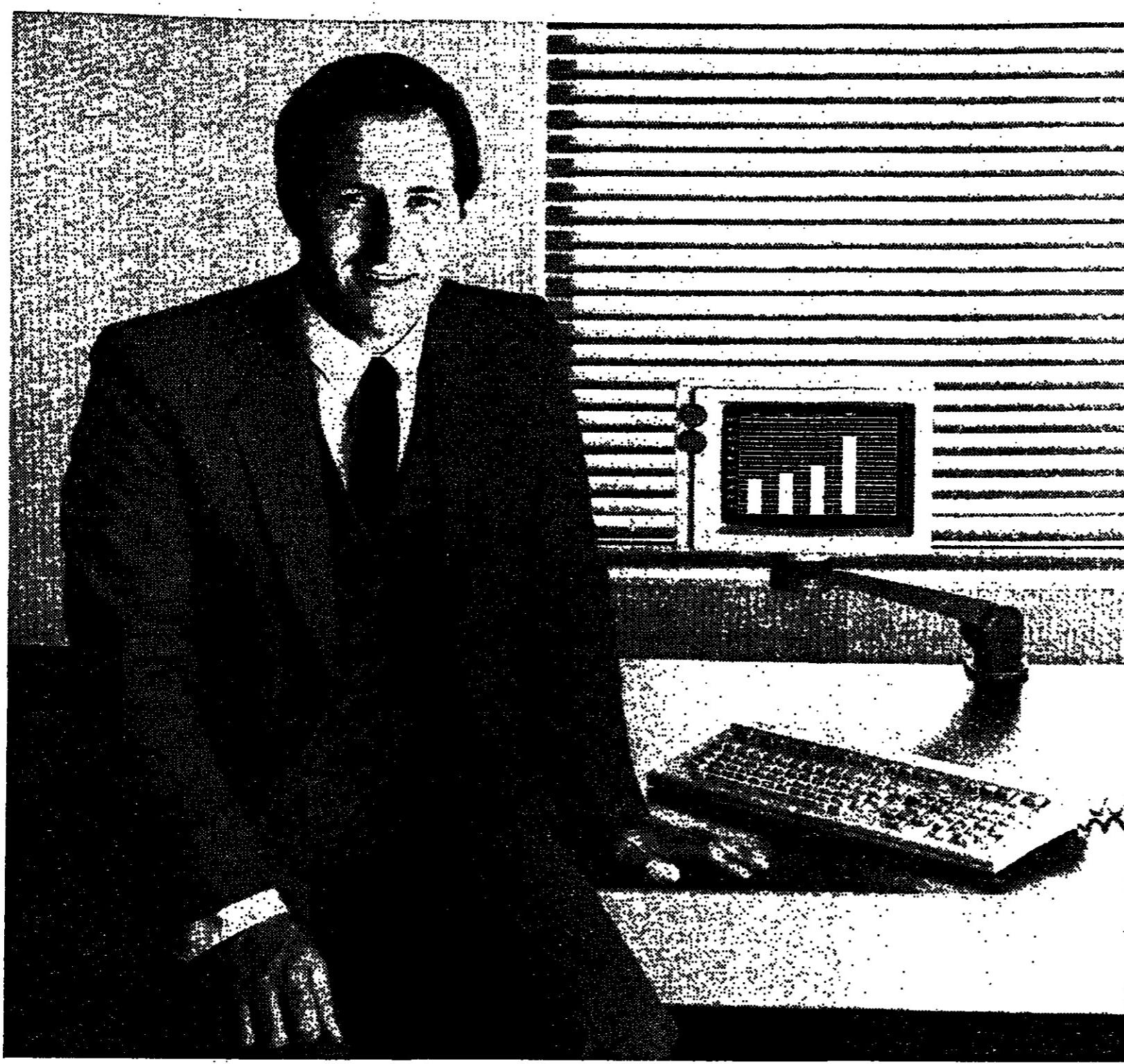
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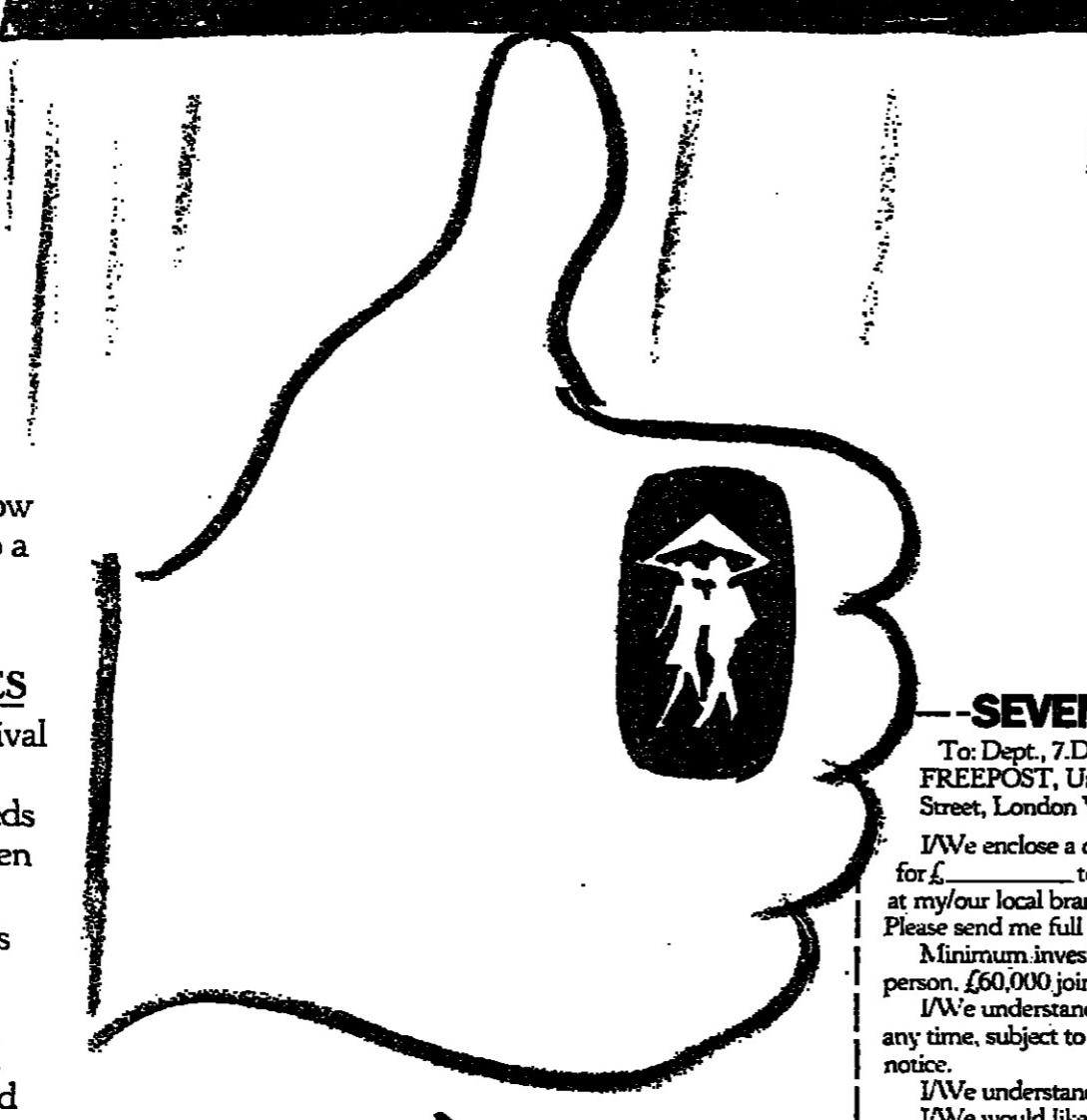
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A. added to the Seven Day Account
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(tick appropriate box)

Full name(s) _____

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT

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GORDON C. MUIR-CARBY

PAUL H. A. CLEGG

and

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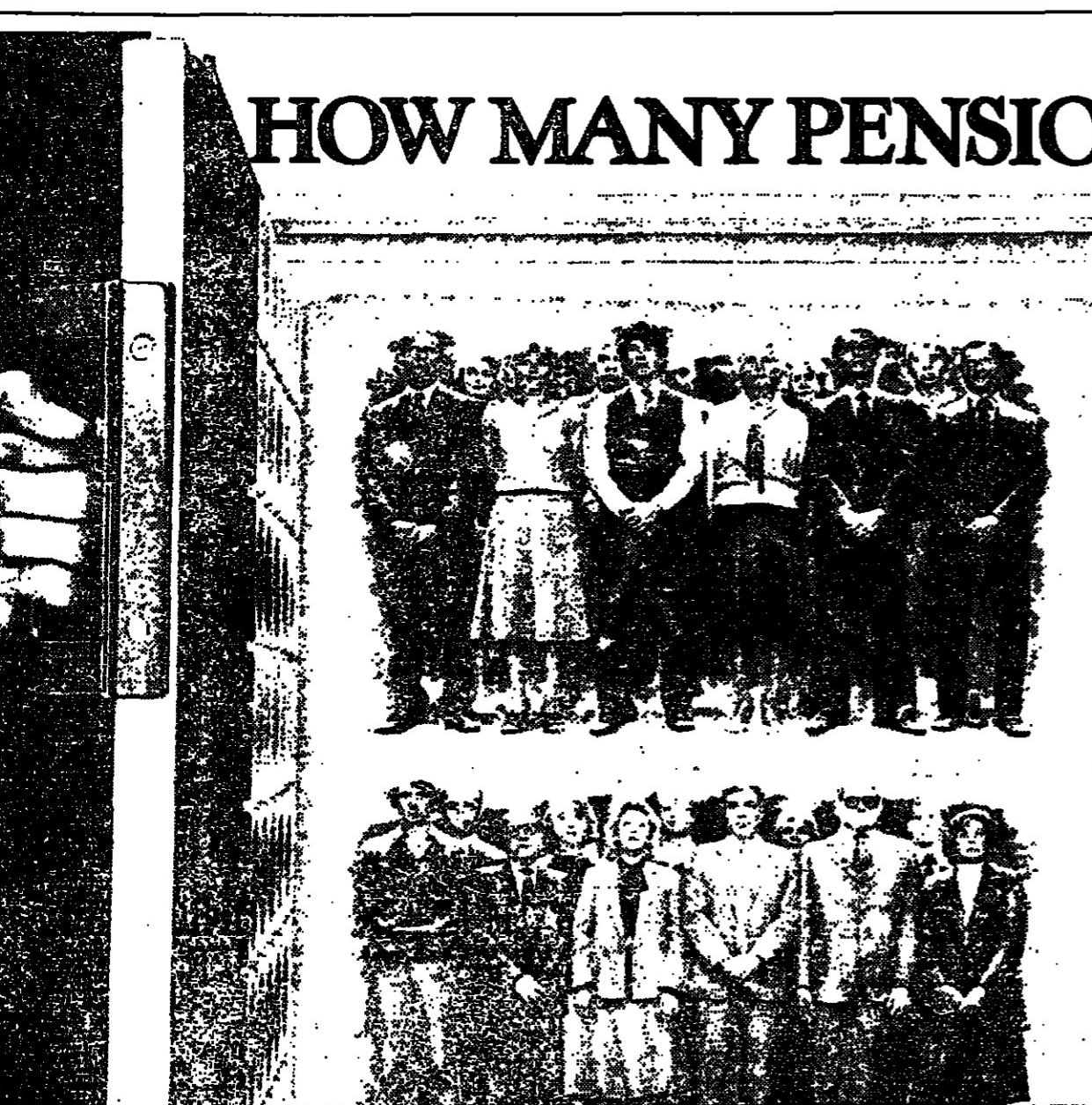
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FT6/ICE



WORLD TRADE

GE clears way for Australia's biggest takeover deal

BY LACHLAN DRUMMOND IN SYDNEY

THE DECISION by General Electric (GE) of the U.S. that it is to take a 20 to 25 per cent stake in the Utah Coal Associates (UCA) consortium plus a similar stake in another mine owned by the consortium's leader, Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), should enable Australia's biggest ever takeover deal to be completed, although in substantially modified form.

For some months, BHP has been trying to find equity partners to join it in its U.S.\$2.4bn consortium to bid for the whole of GE's subsidiary, Utah International. Having passed the original deadline set for completion of the deal at the end of October, BHP has now clearly had to ask GE to hide its time in its plans to rid itself of Utah International and its largely coal mining assets.

The move also changes the shareholding pattern in the Australian coal industry and leaves BHP with a larger holding than originally envisaged in this difficult sector.

Before the GE move to retain a stake in UCA was announced, the position was that Utah International (UI) was essentially divided into two wings. The first was primarily its Australian holdings, grouped under the banner of Utah Development (89.2 per cent owned by Utah International with the remaining 10.8 per cent of the shares held by Ural Consolidated – an Australian mining company). This contained the lion's share of the coking coal mines of Queensland and a share in an iron ore mine in Western Australia.

The other side to UI was its non-Australian holdings. These range from coal mines in New Mexico and Kentucky, a copper mine on Vancouver Island, an open-cut iron ore mine in Brazil and various undeveloped projects in Africa and South America.

Faced with the prospect of the deal falling through, GE appears to have decided that for the time being retaining a 20 to 25 per cent stake in UCA is better than being stuck with UI for the foreseeable future. The remaining 8 to 13 per cent of UCA is to be placed with other groups. It is thought that Pancontinental may be interested in a 5 per cent stake and that Ural may be prepared to lift its holding to as much as 20 per cent.

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UK NEWS

Britain determined on EEC budget solution

BY KEVIN BROWN

THE UK Government is determined to block agreement on ending the EEC financial crisis unless it is accompanied by a permanent solution to the British budget problem, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey reiterated the Government's demand that an increase in the Community's share of value-added tax receipts must be accompanied by effective control on the rate of increase of agricultural spending and a 'fair sharing' of the financial burden of the Community.

In a statement on last week's meeting in Athens of the EEC special council Sir Geoffrey said the 18 were agreed that wrangling over the Common Agricultural Policy and the Community budget would

have to be resolved at the heads of government meeting in Athens in December.

Pressed by sceptical Labour and anti-Common Market Conservative MPs, Sir Geoffrey stressed that Britain's bargaining position was strong because Community spending was approaching the ceiling allowed under present financing arrangements.

"We have made it quite clear we will not put before this House of Commons proposals for any increase in the community's own resources unless we are satisfied that our two conditions are fulfilled," he said.

The Prime Minister has made very clear the determination with which we shall address this question. That is well understood and it

Workers in secret ballots over pay

SECRET BALLOTS introduced by companies are already having a marked effect on this year's pay

in four cases ballots have

reversed the decisions of mass meet-

ings not to accept settlements. In a

fifth case a second mass meeting

was held ahead of a ballot and this

overwhelmingly reversed the deci-

sion of a previous show of hands.

Not all the ballots have worked as

management and union officials

hoped, however. In two other cases

the workforce rejected proposals

despite union recommendations to

accept, forcing further negotiations

which then led to settlements.

All the settlements involved have

been in the region of 4-5 per cent.

The companies involved have been

in the manufacturing, distribution,

financial services or mail order sectors.

The companies have decided to

be named, but all the secret bal-

lot clauses were negotiated by Mr

David Jones, a director of the Man-

chester management consultants,

Collinson-Grant.

Mr Jones said yesterday, the

clauses did not make secret ballots

mandatory but merely recognised

that ballots might be of assistance

in resolving questions of pay or in-

ustrial action.

The presence of such a clause in

a procedural agreement, however,

made it difficult for either side to

refuse a ballot if one was requested.

● MANAGEMENT of Rolls-Royce

Motors will meet national union of-

ficials tomorrow in a second at-

tempt to end a pay strike by 2,800

manual workers at Crewe, Cheshire.

The strike is in its fourth week. A

mass meeting of the workforce has

been called for Thursday to discuss

the company's 4 per cent pay offer.

● A TEAM from the International

Monetary Fund, headed by Mr Pat-

rick de Fontenay, will visit the UK

early next month for the regular an-

nual review of economic policies

which the fund conducts in all

member countries.

● CONSTRUCTION of Sierra and

Fiesta car bodies was halted by a

disciplinary dispute at Ford's Dagenham plant, Essex, yesterday. The

dispute coincided with resumed

talks in London on the company's

4.1 per cent pay offer to its 44,500

hourly paid workers, but Ford said

it did not believe the two issues

were related.

● AIR CANADA is considering

starting a scheduled service be-

tween Glasgow and North America

in the face of the challenge to its

business posed by British Midland

Airways (BMA) application to fly

from Glasgow to New York.

A public hearing of BMA's case to

fly the route takes place today be-

fore the Civil Aviation Authority.

Air Canada fears that if BMA is

granted a licence "much hard won

business traffic which Air Canada

carries to Canada and the U.S.

could be lost overnight," a spokes-

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UK NEWS

Pension funds account for quarter of shares

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN a quarter of UK company shares are held by pension funds and the proportion of shares held by individuals is declining. The latest trends are revealed in a survey published yesterday by the London Stock Exchange.

The survey, carried out by the economics department of the stock exchange, shows the trend of ordinary share ownership until the end of 1981. The last previous survey showed the trends until the end of 1975 and was published by the Department of Industry.

Between 1975 and 1981 the pension fund proportion of holdings in shares rose from 18.2 per cent to 26.7 per cent, the most dramatic advance in percentage terms. The value of the shares which they held at the end of 1981 stood at £26.5bn, compared with £7.5bn in 1975.

Investment trust and other financial companies' holdings fell from 10.5 per cent in 1975 to 6.8 per cent by 1981. Unit trusts also showed a small decline from 4.1 per cent to 3.6 per cent. Insurance companies' holdings rose from 15.9 per cent to 20.5 per cent.

At the end of 1981 private investors held just 26.2 per cent of UK equities compared with 37.5 per cent at the end of 1975. But the total value of individuals' holdings had risen to £28.5bn, compared with £11.7bn.

The survey says that the percentage decline can be attributed in part to the growing funds available to institutional investors which come from individuals.

Methods of indirect saving by individuals "have grown enormously over the last few years," the survey says. "In large measure these trends have been substantially supported by the impact of the tax system."

Share purchases have to be financed from post-tax income while the tax-free contributions to pension funds, financed only in part, if at all, by employees all have been a powerful incentive to channel funds through this type of intermediary.

The pension based on final salary has become an important part of an employee's total benefits, "especially to those who make their career with one employer. There appears, therefore, a less perceived need to

provide individually for retirement."

Throughout the 1970s the economic climate "has not appeared to favour direct investment and savers have adopted safety-first attitudes. Where savings growth has occurred it has been concentrated in deposit-type investment through banks, national savings and, most particularly, through building societies."

The decline in the proportion of personal shareholdings might be arrested as the benefits of wider share ownership "are now being more fully understood." The growth of profit-sharing schemes and the introduction of the Business Start-up Scheme, since extended into a more general Business Expansion Scheme might also help to arrest the decline. "However, we have yet to see any substantial move to encourage a revival of direct investment in established stock-exchange-listed businesses."

The Stock Exchange Survey of Share Ownership is a supplement to the Stock Exchange Year service published by the London Stock Exchange.

Lex, Page 29

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Tank industry warned of export threat

By Lynton McLain

THE WEST European battle tank industry faces a threat from Brazil, South Korea and Taiwan which are about to enter the export market for main battle tanks. This is according to Mr Christopher Foss, the editor of the latest edition of Jane's Armour and Artillery, published to day.

The threat to export markets which have been traditionally dominated by Western tank manufacturers comes as the European makers face declining orders from their own armed forces.

The makers of main battle tanks in the UK (Vickers and the Royal Ordnance Factories) and in West Germany, France and Spain face a fall in orders with the completion, by the mid-1980s, of present domestic contracts. These major tank manufacturers have a "somewhat bleak outlook," Jane's editor says.

The ending of prime finishing at Hemel Hempstead is blamed by industry sources on Kodak's slower service compared with those of its competitors.

However, Mr Peter Liddell, district secretary of the Transport and

Kodak cuts jobs in colour print business

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

KODAK, the photographic company, is to stop developing holiday snapshots under its own name and will axe nearly half the staff at its colour processing department at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

It wants to make 170 workers redundant in addition to 100 jobs lost earlier this year. The cuts have been caused by increasing competition from independent photo finishers.

Kodak will still be involved in the colour print business through partly or wholly owned subsidiaries operating elsewhere in the UK under different names. At Hemel Hempstead, it will also continue to process colour slides and movie films.

The ending of prime finishing at Hemel Hempstead is blamed by industry sources on Kodak's slower service compared with those of its competitors.

Earlier this year Kodak announced that it was closing its international parent company headquarters in High Holborn, central London, and its marketing and advertising offices in Basingstoke, on the north-western outskirts of London.

General Workers' Union, blamed the redundancies on the activities of so-called "sweat shops".

"We have put out of work by sweat shops, which are undercutting Kodak rates because they do not pay their employees the sort of money and provide the same working conditions as Kodak."

"The company is taking the view that the situation is not going to improve and it is time to pull the plug out," he said.

Kodak is also considering selling a 10-acre site at Hemel Hempstead and transferring its remaining developing work to an adjoining 3-acre site that contains a new distribution warehouse.

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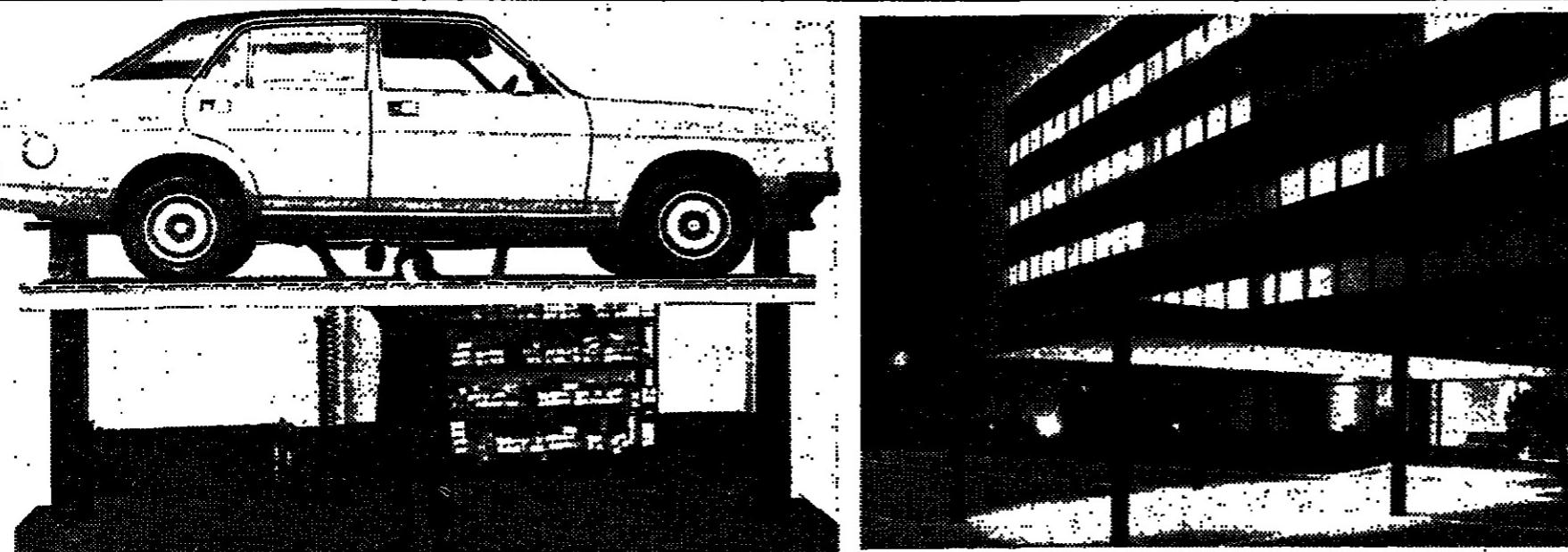
Every company counts the cost of wages and raw materials but not every company considers the amount they spend on energy.

For it's not generally realised just how high a proportion of direct production costs it represents.

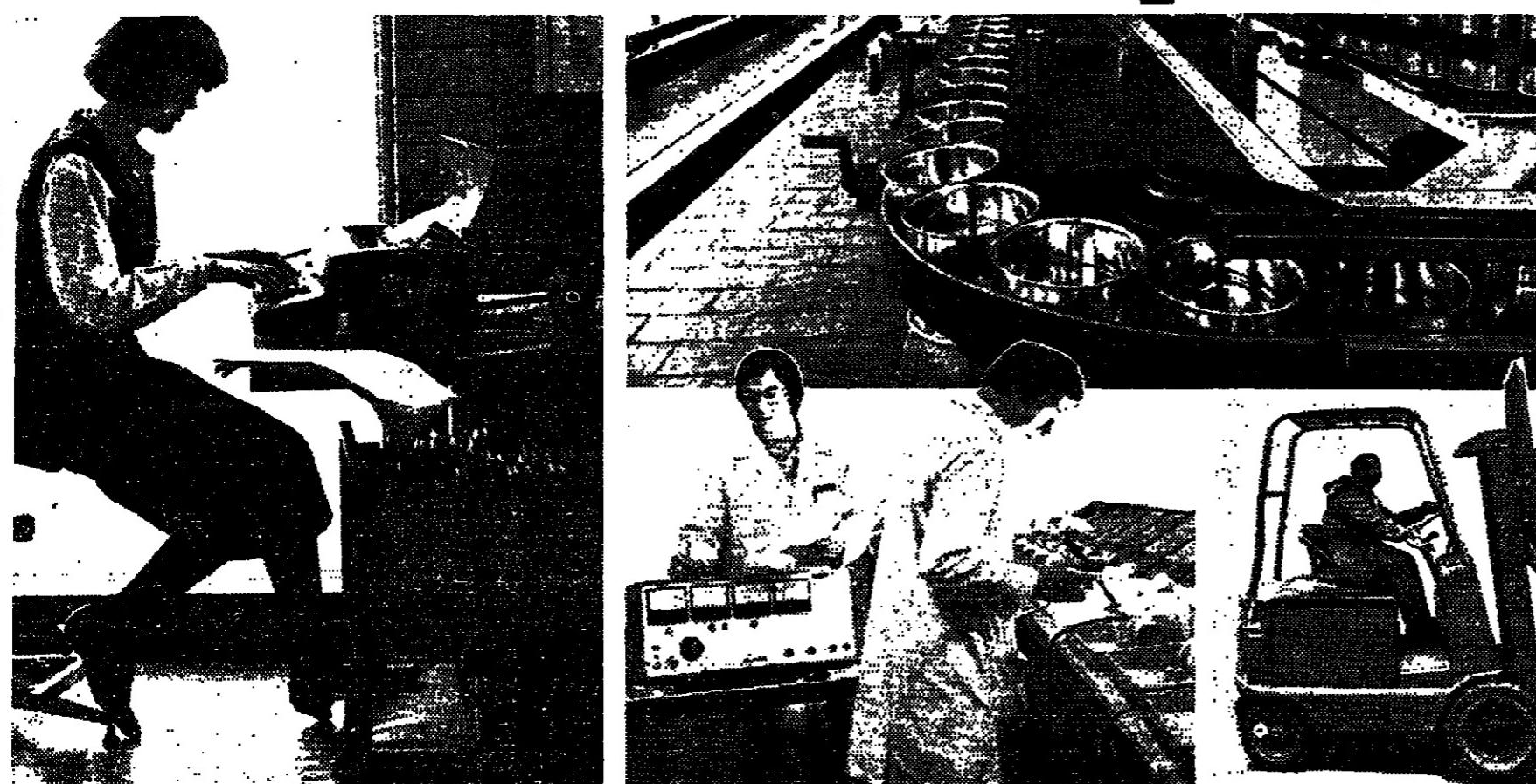
And when you consider the sharp rise in fuel prices over the last ten years you'll understand why energy costs should be the urgent talking point of boardrooms up and down the country.

Yet energy is one of the easiest resources to control once the full managerial weight of a company has been put behind it.

It is also true to say that those companies who have gained control over the amount of energy they use are now in a much more competitive position for the future. Hence the growing number



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of organisations who have taken the all-important step of appointing an Energy Manager. An Energy Efficiency Survey can help him provide an in-depth analysis of how his company can make the best use of its energy and can be 50% funded by the Energy Efficiency Office.

Others have turned to the Energy Conservation Demonstration Projects Scheme which has given them the relevant technical information needed to put through an energy-saving programme.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE



UK NEWS

FT COMMERCIAL LAW REPORTS

Communication 'block' in office systems

BY JASON CRISP

BRITISH SUPPLIERS of office automation systems are being urged to work harder to improve communications with their customers.

A report yesterday from the National Economic Development Office (Nedo) recommends that suppliers should look again at their marketing material, their manuals and guides.

In many cases these needed to be rewritten in simple, jargon-free terms to remove a communications 'block', it said.

The study, prepared by the Information Technology Development Committee, had a sharp warning for some of the UK suppliers. It says a number of users saw the worst of UK suppliers as:

- Preoccupied with technology rather than the user's needs;
- Conditioned by selling to the public sector rather than commercial markets;
- Capable only of offering part of a system themselves, yet also unwilling to work with other companies capable of offering the whole;
- Offering often excellent products, but not supporting them.

As systems increase in complexity, users, even knowledgeable ones, turn to manufacturers who give the impression that they understand

A user perspective on information technology, £3. Available from Reed Books, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QX.

Cruise 'confusion' denied by Heseltine

BY IVOR OWEN

MR MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Defence Secretary, vigorously denied in the House of Commons last night claims by Labour MPs that the Government had received little advance warning of the arrival of U.S. cruise nuclear missiles in Britain yesterday.

He said that the timing of the arrival of the weapons had been initiated by Britain. He dismissed suggestions that the curtailment of his visit, earlier in the day, to a new airborne division at Aldershot indicated a degree of surprise and confusion in Whitehall.

Mr Silkin, Labour's shadow Defence Minister, argued that Mr Heseltine had been forced to beat a hasty retreat from Aldershot because it was 'an American' decision which had determined when the first cruise missiles would arrive at their base at Greenham Common in Berkshire.

To Labour cheers, he demanded: 'Does the Secretary of State really know what is actually happening?'

If so, Mr Silkin said, why had it been necessary for Mr Heseltine to be called back to London so that he could honour his earlier undertaking to inform MPs at the first opportunity of the arrival of the first cruise missiles?

Mr Silkin re-opened the controversy over the instructions which would be given to British forces if U.S. personnel sought to deploy the missiles in off-base locations without the Prime Minister's approval.

Mr Heseltine was adamant that there was no question of cruise missiles being moved off the Greenham, Common base by U.S. personnel without such approval.

He emphasised that Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, had received a categorical undertaking to this effect from President Ronald Reagan.

Mr Heseltine, ignoring Labour references to the lack of adequate consultation which preceded the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, said the deployment of the missiles outside the base would not happen 'unless the British are as aware of what is happening as is necessary in the circumstances.'

The Defence Secretary said he had been aware of the date and timing of the missiles' arrival 'at every appropriate moment.' But he refused, despite repeated pressure from Labour MPs, to say exactly when he was first informed.

FT starts computer software publishing

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

THE FINANCIAL TIMES made its first move into publishing computer software with the launch yesterday of a financial modelling program which can run on the more powerful personal computers.

The new program, FT Moneywise, is a co-operative effort between the FT and Moneywise Software, a small independent computer software company set up a year ago.

The move is part of the FT's continuing diversification into new areas of business information services. Last month the FT and ITT announced the establishment of International Financial Intelligence Service (IFIS), an electronic business news service.

Mr Joe Rogaly, chief executive of Financial Times Business Enterprises, said yesterday: 'The FT group is in the information business; essentially we are a communications company. As well as being a



Heseltine: 'Britain initiated timing'

Mr Heseltine explained that the decision to take over his Aldershot visit was whether to abandon it or cut it short. There was derisive laughter from the Labour benches when he said: 'In view of the confinement I felt to the large number of people at Aldershot looking forward to my visit I thought it more appropriate to honour that obligation.'

Mr Michael Foot, the former Labour Leader, again maintained that the cruise missiles were effectively under the sole control of the President of the U.S. because, as Commander-in-Chief of all U.S. forces, he was not permitted by the U.S. Constitution to 'divest himself of that control without congressional approval.'

Mr Heseltine retorted that Mr Foot had been a member of a government which had accepted similar assurances to those which the Prime Minister had obtained from President Reagan when the same consideration must have applied.

In a clash with Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, Mr Heseltine confirmed that the Government had earlier decided not to take advantage of a U.S. offer which would have made it possible for Britain to have a 'dual key' system ensuring joint control over the launch of cruise missiles.

He recalled that the cost would have amounted to £1bn and that the Government had decided it was not justifiable expenditure in view of the other demands on the defence budget.

Charterers' liability to grant indemnity for ships' arrest

Queen's Bench Division (Commercial Court): Mr Justice Stoughton November 3 1983

WHERE a ship's master, acting in good faith and according to normal practice, delivers cargo to the wrong person on the order of the charterer, the charterer is liable to indemnify the owners of the ship if she is subsequently arrested and they thereby suffer loss.

Mr Justice Stoughton so held when giving judgment for A/S Hanse - Tanger Reeder III, owners of the Sagoma, in their claim against charterers, Total Transport Corporation, of Panama, for indemnity for losses incurred as a result of the vessel's arrest by shippers for mis-delivery of cargo.

His lordship said that in July 1978 a cargo of gasoline was shipped on board the Sagoma at Milazzo in Sicily. The ship's master signed and issued a bill of lading to the shippers. It provided for delivery 'to order'. That meant, in order of the shippers or any succeeding holder of the bill of lading with appropriate endorsements.

In his conversation with the master as to time of commencement of discharge there was no mention of a bill of lading. Everything that was said and done by him in relation to the arrival of the vessel at Nordenham and the commencement of discharge, was said or done by him as part of the ordinary business of a ship in port, and therefore on behalf of the charterers.

In the case of a bill of lading signed on behalf of shipowners the terms and exceptions of the contract might be different from those in the charterparty. The bill of lading would bind the shipowner to deliver to the order of the shipper or a named consignee, whereas the time

was available when Mabanafit could not produce one.

The probability of an owner being bound by two separate and inconsistent contracts gave rise to the provision in clause 30 of the charterparty that "... charterers hereby indemnify owners against all liabilities that may arise from the signing of bills of lading in accordance with the directions of charterers or their agents..."

In general where there was a time charter, the ship's agent was the agent of the charterer. In the present case, the charterers had appointed the agent at Nordenham and, in accordance with normal practice, he made arrangements with pilots, tugs, and customs authorities. He was present when the vessel berthed, and he went on board.

In his conversation with the master as to time of commencement of discharge there was no mention of a bill of lading. Everything that was said and done by him in relation to the arrival of the vessel at Nordenham and the commencement of discharge, was said or done by him as part of the ordinary business of a ship in port, and therefore on behalf of the charterers.

Before long it was discovered that Mabanafit was not entitled to receive the cargo. It had contracted to buy it from others who were par-

charterer to deliver to the wrong party was not a lawful order under the charterparty, and was not an order which a shipowner was bound to obey.

The judge was upheld by the Court of Appeal (1934) 50 *LILR* 185 which applied the principle in *Dugdale (1895) LR 10 CP* 196.200 that 'when an act has been done by the plaintiff under the express directions of the defendant which occasions an injury to ... a third person, if such an act is not apparently illegal in itself, but is done honestly and *bona fide* in compliance with the defendants directions, he shall be bound to indemnify the plaintiff against the consequences thereof.'

The charterers ordered the owner to deliver the cargo to Mabanafit by their radio-telegram of July 10, and to a lesser extent by the words and conduct of their agent at Nordenham.

The radio telegram made no mention of delivery without production of a bill of lading, but the practice and course of a dealing was such that the order could fairly be construed as reading 'deliver to Mabanafit, taking such precautions in relation to the bill of lading as are usually taken by masters, and as have been taken hitherto during this charter party'. The master did comply with that order.

His Lordship agreed with the judge's reasoning. An order by the charterers was one which the master was entitled to be indemnified.

The order was one which the owners, through their master were

not bound to obey, nor the charterers entitled to give.

But the act which it required was not 'manifestly illegal in itself'. Nor was it 'something which was likely to excite the suspicion of the master,' or ought to have caused him to refuse to act.

A master was always justified in refusing to comply with an order to deliver to a person who was not entitled to the cargo; but it was another question whether owners were entitled to indemnify if he so delivered when there was nothing to arouse his suspicion.

The point was one of causation. The question was whether, when the charterers ordered delivery to Mabanafit, that order caused the owners' loss, or whether the master's conduct in obeying it without further enquiry was a *nexus actus interveniens*.

As the master followed his normal practice and that of other masters, and as there was no circumstance to arouse his suspicion, the loss was caused by the charterers' order.

The owners were entitled to be indemnified.

For the shipowners: David Johnson QC, Martin Moore-Buck and Rhonda Baker (Sinclair Roche - Templebury).

For the charterers: Michael Dean QC and VV Veeder (Holman Fenwick & Willan).

By Rachel Davies
Barrister

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Importers gain ground in the battle of the coaches

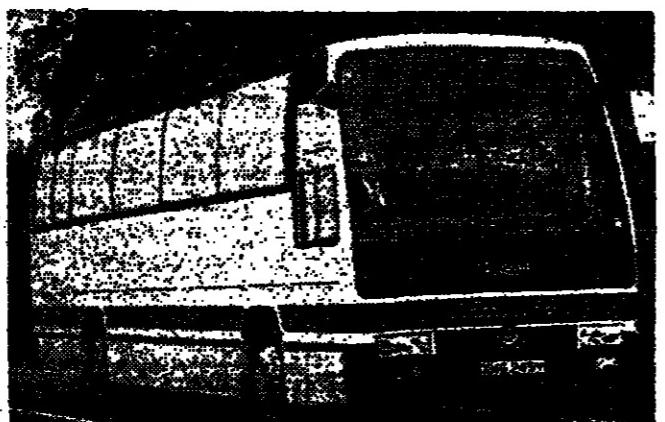
By Hazel Duffy, Transport Correspondent

BRITAIN'S coachbuilders are struggling to stem the rising tide of coaches being imported from the Continent. A declining market, imports could be as high as 40 per cent this year. Four years ago, they were only 3 per cent.

The repeat of a trend which was seen first in the car industry, and then the commercial vehicle industry, has come about mainly for two reasons. First, the British industry was slow to appreciate that demand was changing towards the more lucrative market for coaches — vehicles that were already being supplied by continental coach manufacturers in markets where coach travel is over longer distances than in Britain. Second, continental manufacturers, seeing their traditional markets in decline, began selling more aggressively in the largely untapped British market.

Mr Ken Maciver, managing director of Leyland Bus, admits: "We were behind the times. We had not realised the strength of shift from the seaside type of coach operation to the sophisticated coach that is required today."

Leyland launched its Tiger coach in response to the challenge early last year, following this up with the Royal Tiger



The Leyland Tiger, launched last year

operators and manufacturers — it is the looks and the latest in passenger comfort which attract most interest in this highly customer-conscious market.

Many of the independent operators, however, have looked to the Continent recently. Sometimes this has been because of availability, but attractive financing has also played a part. The classic — some might say garish — appearance of some continental coaches has appealed to operators hoping to attract customers on highly competitive routes. They have also been favoured by operators of chamber coach services and touring buses.

Ford and Bedford are the major suppliers of lightweight chassis in the UK, while Ford also has a midweight chassis, and has plans to move into the heavyweight chassis sector. Ford, however, seems content to leave this increasingly competitive sector alone.

A new entrant into the coach industry or, rather, a re-entrant is Metro-Cammell Weymann. Its new Metroliner, in single, split and double deck models, was launched last spring. National Express will take delivery shortly of a fleet of Metroliners, including double deckers, while the Scottish Bus Group has been using two prototype double deckers this summer.

The Royal Tiger, in sleek black livery, was attracting attention at the European coach rally held recently in Nice. The rally puts coaches through a number of technical tests, but for many of the

The poor relation that has now been transformed

later. The Tiger has sold well. It now has about 32 per cent of the UK single-deck coach market. But this has been largely at the expense of the older-style Leopard coach, and Leyland's total market share to date this year is slightly below last year's. Meanwhile, sales of the Royal Tiger — Britain's first integral (chassisless construction) — have been sluggish.

However the Royal Tiger, in sleek black livery, was attracting attention at the European coach rally held recently in Nice. The rally puts coaches through a number of technical tests, but for many of the

bodywork standards, will pave the way for Leyland's future in the UK and the projected launch into selected continental markets (the Tiger chassis has also been introduced in Australia). Leyland Bus has been through extensive rationalisation of its manufacturing facilities, recently closing the Bristol works, and is seeing the benefits coming through in productivity.

"I think we are competitive with the continentals on cost now," says Mr Maciver. "But it will not be safe to stop there." Somewhat ominously, he points to the fact that the Japanese have not yet made much impact in the bus industry, but "somebody will come in."

Operators and manufacturers in the British business are under intense competitive pressures. The changes in the market have been customer-led, and the British manufacturers have been late in adapting their products to what the market wants. Tour operators will now frequently specify a certain type of coach in order to satisfy the comforts of their customers, something almost unheard of a few years ago.

The economics of the growth in coach travel are based on tight margins and high loadings. This means that operators must use increasingly high-cost

British coachmakers have adapted late to the new market

vehicles — the Royal Tiger, for instance, sells for about £30,000 and the double-deck Metroliner for about £125,000 — more and more intensively.

At a time when Continental markets have fallen by 4-7 per cent in the past year, and overcapacity is substantial, British manufacturers can expect to find themselves under ever-increasing pressure. The coach market is turning out to be as receptive to imports as the markets for cars and commercial vehicles. Britain's coach manufacturers know that, once established, imports are very hard to dislodge.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Telegrams: Finanitro, London PS4, Telex: 6854871
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Tuesday November 15 1983

Opec's need for demand

THE ORGANISATION of Petroleum Exporting Countries is trying once again to draw up a long-term strategy for prices, production, and relations with the rest of the world. The mood and circumstances are very different from those which prevailed when it made its first attempt.

As it meets for the second session in London today, the reconstituted committee under Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, will be deeply conscious of the changes in the global energy market and, in particular, the fall in demand for oil since Opec tried to redefine its objectives and formulate a coherent policy in the period from 1978 to 1980.

Inflation index

Although the start of that period was marked by weakening demand, there was soon to be a 130 per cent increase in prices. This was mainly the result of the Iranian revolution and of an acute fear amongst oil companies and consuming countries about a likely shortfall of supplies.

Over production

In practice, Opec cannot contemplate implementing any long-term strategy until 1985 or 1986 when the oil market should have stabilised. In the meantime the priority must be the defence of the existing price structure.

Since mid-summer it has been dangerously weakened by a level of Opec output which is estimated to have run at 1.3m b/d above the 1.25m b/d ceiling agreed upon in March. This higher rate is not justified by the level of seasonal restocking and only modest economic recovery in the US. Prices on the spot market, the basic indicator of the supply and demand balance, have been eroded to the level of early April when the world was still unconvinced about Opec's will and ability to restrain output.

Unless discipline can be reasserted at next month's ministerial conference in Geneva, Opec will face a crisis in the first quarter of 1984 of similar proportions to the one which it weathered in early 1983. Then talk of a long-term strategy will be even more academic than it is now.

Opec has only itself to blame.

The pace of deregulation

THERE ARE few more devastating combinations than high technology and deregulation for precipitating rapid change in the markets. Both are at work in the British financial sector, where the erosion of traditional boundaries between different types of financial institutions is proceeding at a rapid pace.

Yesterday's announcement that Mercury Securities, the arm of merchant banking firm S. G. Warburg, is to take a stake in the stockbroking firm of Akroyd and Smithers, is simply the latest (and one of the more thought-provoking) in a series of conglomerate financial moves, actual or potential, to have come out into the open. The way was cleared by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Trade Secretary, when he decided to exempt the Stock Exchange from the attentions of the Office of Fair Trading and to lay down a deadline for the introduction of negotiated commissions on financial services trading.

By now the City air is buzzing with talk of giant broking houses making markets in competition with New York and Tokyo, of financial supermarkets and discount brokerage, of a shift from a wholesale financial world back to a retail-oriented one in which that elusive animal, the private investor, will become the focus of renewed interest. Clearly we are going somewhere fast. But where — and with what consequences for regulation?

Scepticism

This is not the first time in recent memory that boundaries have begun to break down between different parts of the financial system. The last outbreak was in the early 1970s when it became fashionable to regard banking, insurance and property as logical bedfellows. The logic failed to stand up to the financial crisis in 1974. So there is good reason to confront today's futology with caution.

The first ground for scepticism is that crucial features of the securities markets in Britain remain unchanged. A Stock Exchange survey of share ownership published yesterday indicates that the trend is still for individuals to reduce the proportion of their wealth held in ordinary shares by selling to investment institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds. At the same time stamp duty on share transactions remains in place, so keeping the costs of dealing in London artificially high.

A DEAL that the whole stock market has been waiting for was announced yesterday morning, when Mercury Securities, parent of one London's leading merchant banks S. G. Warburg declared its intention to buy a stake of 29.9 per cent in Akroyd and Smithers, one of the two top stockbrokers on the London Stock Exchange.

In the four months since the Stock Exchange's out-of-court settlement of its dispute with the Government over restrictive practices, the City of London's lunch tables and bars have buzzed with gossip about who was going to do what with hard facts and firm decisions.

Even the linking of the broking firm of Vickers da Costa last week with the American bank giant Citicorp failed to make a significant impression. The bulk of Vickers' business is in foreign securities, so the deal with Citicorp will only have a slight impact on the London market.

Now, however, the action has moved right to the centre of the stage. Akroyd and Smithers is arguably the Stock Exchange's top firm of stockbrokers, trading a broad spread of UK equities and famed for its spectacular dealing coups in the gilt-edged market.

Most members are reconciled to the fact that, in the absence of a severe and prolonged supply disruption, they cannot realistically hope for a price rise even in nominal terms until 1985 at the earliest. Only recently has the remarkable four-year decline in overall demand for oil been halted. Any increase next year would probably require an economic growth rate of at least 3 per cent.

Over production

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Opec has only itself to blame.

It is this separation of functions which is under threat following the Stock Exchange's agreement to important changes in its rule book. The system of fixed commissions on transactions in securities is to be phased out. Most stock market practitioners believe that when commissions are negotiable, irresistible pressures will build up within the London market for a blurring of the distinction between jobbers and brokers.

The early speculation following the Stock Exchange's deal with the Government was that the big merchant banks would move to pick up some of the large broking firms. The logic was that the merchant banks would aim to build up their domestic distribution capability, so that they could

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

AKROYD & SMITHERS

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30

25

20

15

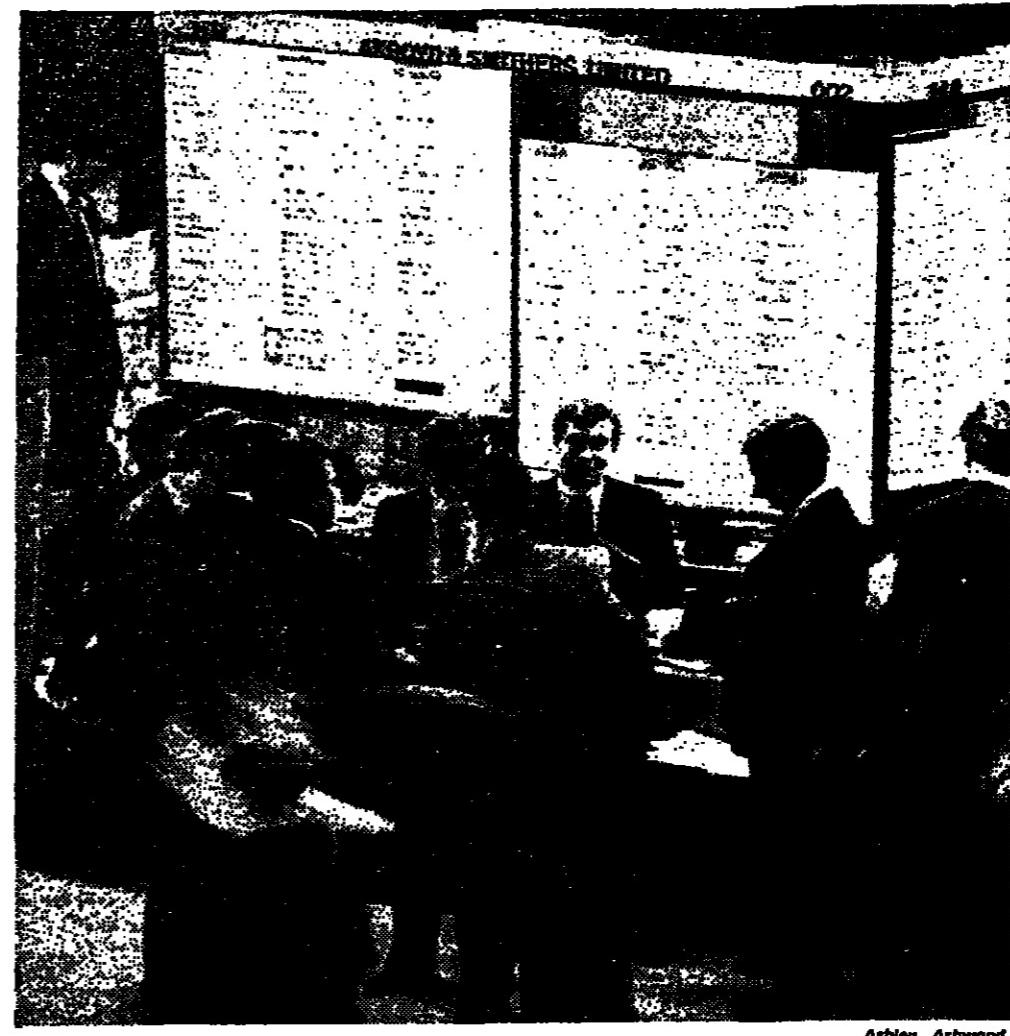
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1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978

A deal unveiled yesterday underlines the major shake-up under way in the London stock market



An Akroyd and Smithers pitch on the floor of the London Stock Exchange. Ashley Ashwood

Why Warburg is making a pitch for Akroyd

By Barry Riley, Financial Editor

find buyers for large new issues or for big blocks of shares being disposed of by existing holders.

The teams of institutional salesmen at the major broking firms would be ideal for the purpose.

As things stand, the merchant banks chafe at the need to hand on commissions and fees to brokers, on domestic issues, whereas on international securities such as Eurobonds they have direct access to large clients them selves.

But it is now clear that merchant bankers are cautious about the idea of buying stakes in brokers (so far the investment limit is to 29.9 per cent, by a ruling of the Stock Exchange, though there are expectations that in due course this limit will be raised or abolished).

According to one leading merchant banker yesterday, brokers are simply "too risky."

The brokers' expectations on purchase price are conditioned by the exceptionally high profits they have earned in the past year. Recent deals have been struck at multiples of three or four times underlying net worth.

Yet their prospective parents have been concerned by the thought that not only has recent trading been unusually lucra-

tive, but the future prospects during a structural shake-up in the London Stock Exchange are distinctly hazardous.

After "Mayday" on the New York Stock Exchange in 1973, when fixed commissions were abolished there, the stock market went through an agonising period of readjustment. Substantial losses were incurred, until eventually a smaller number of surviving firms broke through to a renewed period of prosperity.

Many potential buyers of London brokers are probably reckoning that there will be cheaper opportunities to buy later on. In the meantime, they are also restrained by the thought that a broker linked to a particular merchant bank might lose the large volumes of business generated by the investment departments of merchant banking rivals.

This would not necessarily rule out a deal between a bank (or a financial services group like Mercantile House or Exco) and one of the big, broadly spread institutional brokers. But such brokers are unlikely to be in any hurry. Their smaller counterparts are often feeling much more anxious and unshaken—but by the same token are not going to find it easy to attract a high price.

Vickers da Costa's Far Eastern

connections made it very much of a special case.

While many brokers face the future with some trepidation, the jobbers are rather more sanguinely minded. Warburg, in its pre-emptive form of the Stock Exchange, is clear that there will be a continuing demand for market-making skills.

At any rate, Warburg has decided to make its move in this direction, a step which should be seen in the context of the bank's ambitions in the international securities markets. Although Warburg has a high reputation in London following the collapse of its relationship with A. G. Becker, which last year was absorbed by the French group Paribas.

In the meantime, Warburg has watched the growing international strength of the big US investment banks such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, First Boston and Salomon Bros.

Warburg has noted the strong link between a primary issue capability and a secondary market-making function. For the moment it will be limited to a 29.9 per cent stake, and is committed to an arms-length relationship. It will also need to retain the goodwill of

the Akroyd deal as a way of grafting on a much bigger capacity for international secondary market making, pointing to areas like Eurobonds—where both companies are active, though on a basis which is said to be complementary—and the New York market.

On Wall Street, Akroyd and Smithers Inc is active in domestic risk arbitrage, traded options and money research. But if it is not exactly a front-line operation (last April, Akroyd bought the outstanding \$1.5m), as a basis for challenging the might of New York's top investment banks, it looks too flimsy.

The view from Warburg is that big things can be built from small seeds, over which it may have only limited control. For the moment it will be limited to a 29.9 per cent stake, and is committed to an arms-length relationship. It will also need to cut through the traditional structures and fat underwriting margins of the domestic new issues market.

The emerging partnership with Akroyd & Smithers may be a means for Warburg to strengthen its position in the international markets, but it could also be a way of defending its own back door.

Men & Matters

Tugendhat's trial

Revenge was sweet yesterday for Gaston Thorn, the Luxembourgish who is president of the European Commission. Before some 300 journalists he forced an all-too-public examination of Christopher Tugendhat, Britain's commissioner for the European budget.

It was the worst day for Tugendhat, Brussels-watchers say, since the occasion in 1981 when he had to call in Mrs Thatcher's political muscle to keep his portfolio.

Tugendhat was quick last week to label commission proposals to sort out the perennial problem of the British budget as "trickery and cheating... cooking the books." They were not the sort of remarks that gave the impression of a united commission ceaselessly searching for an invigorated EEC—and most of Tugendhat's fellow commissioners took exception to his remarks.

In Brussels yesterday Thorn was giving one of his periodic pep talks about the need for all to pull together to make real the official vision of the EEC. And, he said, he would be carrying the message to national capitals during the next couple of weeks.

Then he was asked about the credibility of the commission following the Tugendhat comments. Would Tugendhat be going with Thorn?

This is a price well worth paying if deregulation leads to a significant injection of outside capital and increased competition into the securities markets. There is at least a chance, that in the new era for the City financial institutions, it will become more sensitive to the needs of all participants, including the private investor. These welcome changes will have sought to reduce French coal

was the discreet enjoyment of Thorn.

Tugendhat stonewalled. "What you would like me to do is enter into a public argument, enter into discussion of a whole set of different words said in different circumstances."

Soundings like his president Tugendhat tried to silence his critics with a stirring EEC rallying call—"It is the intention of the commission to work in a united and constructive fashion to bring about a solution to problems which are very difficult indeed."

Banker bet

The financial world may be full of uncertainties—but I am taking bets at any odds that I know the answer which Jacques de Groot, executive director of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, will give to the question posed in the title of his speech next month to the Belgo-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in London.

The question is: "Should debtors repay their debts?"

Split seams

The resignation yesterday of Georges Valbon, chairman of Charbonnage de France, the French equivalent of the National Coal Board, was not entirely unexpected.

Valbon, aged 59, was appointed chairman of the large and ailing state enterprise in February 1982, but was never more than a figure-head. And as a member of the French Communist Party's central committee, he has been increasingly disturbed by the prevailing Socialist strategies for the coal industry.

Since the Left came to power in France, Charbonnage has been managed by its president, Michel Hug, who switched seals from Electricité de France.

Hug's policies, in line with the Socialist Government's rigorous economic ideas, have sought to reduce French coal

production, close down unviable operations, and lay off large numbers of miners. The industry currently absorbs Government subsidies of around FF 6.5bn a year.

This was clearly unacceptable to Valbon and his party, which has bitterly criticised the Socialists for renegeing on their pledge to make the coal industry an important part of the country's energy programme. Instead, the Government has opted in favour of nuclear energy.

Valbon chose a dramatic moment for his resignation. Minerals and mining protest demonstrations throughout France this week as French MPs debate the 1984 energy budget which calls for a freeze on Government aid to the coal industry.

But the resignation has broader political significance. Valbon, a former mayor of the town of Bobigny, was one of two leading Communists to be placed at the head of state-owned enterprises. The other is Claude Quin, chairman of the Paris urban transport network, RATP.

Their appointments were part of the distribution of power when the Communists agreed to become junior partners in the Left-wing coalition.

Valbon has chosen to depart just as doubts about that association are growing among the Communists. Communist secretary-general Georges Marchais blamed the Socialists and their policies at the weekend for the decline in popularity of the Left in recent local elections.

The Communist mayor of Aulnay-sous-Bois in the Paris "Red Belt" suburb was the latest election casualty on Sunday.

Valbon is also closely connected with the French labour movement. He is a friend of Georges Seguy, former secretary-general of CGT, the pro-Communist union confederation, and he was at one time a CGT delegate himself.

Valbon's decision to quit his

post, then, appears to be essentially a political gesture. The Communists do not yet seem ready to part company completely with the Socialists. But Valbon's resignation could be an important warning signal.

Wasting assets

A reader, D. N. Wettton of Watbury, Wiltshire, has written to the Department for National Savings pointing out that if the Government continues to calculate his savings as it has been doing for the last 20 years he will be flat broke after another 30 years.

He bases his charges of a "negative interest rate" upon the way his two venerable National Savings books have been handled.

One book showing a balance of five shillings in the old currency had not been used for 23 years. The other book with a princely £12/6 to its credit had not been used for 23 years.

He argues that the total sum — 87½p in today's money — should have managed to earn some interest over the period.

But when he received a new book to which his assets had been transferred he was surprised to see the balance had fallen to only 60p.

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He argues that the total sum — 87½p

Letters to the Editor

Privatising British Telecom

From the Secretary,
Hands Off Telephones
Campaign,
British Telecommunications
Unions Committee.

Sir.—Sir George Jefferson (November 11) suggests that the provisions of the BT Bill and the draft licence will adequately protect the customer in the manner suggested in BT's advertisements. It is our considered view that the protection is not adequate. Vague formulae for a period of five years are not good enough when BT's charges for the last 14 years have on average been increased less than the RPI-X. This has been possible due to increased productivity and new technology. The pace of introduction of new technology is due to increase radically over the next five years and with a consequential increase in production and decrease in cost.

His reference to the decision given to the Secretary of State is typical of a number of non-specific phrases in the Bill.

Defence is a matter of national importance and Parliament has a right to know how the change from public to private ownership of BT will affect our national security, and to decide whether the provisions are adequate.

For example, during the Falklands war, the British Telecom cable ship Iris was drafted to the South Atlantic. There was no secret about this, it was reported in the Press. Is there any provision in the current Bill to require a private British Telecom to maintain its fleet of cable ships? Will it be possible for a private British Telecom, on the basis of sound commercial judgments, to dispense with its cable ship fleet or even sell off part of its enterprise to a shipping company or to foreign telecommunications administration?

As it stands we do not know, but Parliament and the nation entitled to know. When is the Government going to tell us?

Alan Chamberlain,
14-15, Bridgewater Square, EC2.

International trade in textiles

From the Managing Director,
Central Confederation of the
Textile Industry in the Federal
Republic of Germany

Sir.—Mr Christian Tyler's article "Caught in the web of MFA quotas" October 28 was, in my view, too simplistic. It is surely no news that Pakistan is not the only developing country exporting textiles to the EEC and that, taken together, textile exports from third countries are inundating the EEC market and most certainly also compete with similar quality there. These exports have been a direct cause of the massive structural adjustment measures that have been already mentioned. Thus the reduction in employment in the textile sector due to rationalisation measures leading to increasingly capital-intensive production methods—often claimed to be the main reason for the loss of jobs—was rather merely an indirect effect of the large-scale textile imports and attempting to ensure they are undertaken.

They will also focus attention on number of areas where national practices increasingly divide what should be a common market; and they will, if their actions are successful, pose a considerable challenge to much of received political wisdom on government's role in advanced industrial societies.

The group has been brought together by Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, the 48-year-old President of Volvo. Its rationale and strategy have been developed and approved at three day-long meetings over the past eight months.

Mr Gyllenhammar, aided by Mr Bo Ekman, one of his company's vice presidents, has structured the initiative so that the group cannot pass itself off as merely another business pressure group or a top level grubbing club: the unveiling of its programme will be a major event.

The group sprang from a common sense of malaise, composed of three main elements.

● First, the belief that European governments, and the European Commission, had through market intervention and subsidies done enterprise more harm than good.

In view of the fact that labour conditions are kept artificially poor in Pakistan (strikes, for example, are not allowed) and elsewhere, it is very much in the interest of the developing countries to have a true comparative advantage for the production of textiles, so that it would make economic sense to support the international division of labour and leave textile production to the developing countries. This is all the more questionable in view of the increasingly capital-intensive production methods in the EEC tending to erode the labour-cost advantage in the developing world.

I hope that these remarks will suffice to demonstrate that the current situation of the textile market of West Germany (and the EEC) is far more complicated than the depiction of the plights of a single exporter would suggest.

(Dr) K. Neudörfer,
6, Frankfurt am Main 70,
Schaumainkai 87,
West Germany.

Price differences in EEC cars

From Mr K. G. Speyer

Sir.—No amount of special pleading by Mr Turnbull (November 4) is likely to convince one who has made his case, which is not helped by his ignoring one of the main points of Mr Crowther's letter (October 10), this being that our state subsidised BIL's uncompetitive prices allow all its competitors, most of which are now foreign, a niveau of car prices in this country only, which is especially profitable for them by courtesy of the British taxpayer. It is probable that the UK is the most profitable mass market for foreigners, the most profitable anywhere in the world!

Mr Turnbull ends his special pleading with another non sequitur, eg "the profitability or otherwise of eight European car makers in this country".

If our domestic car prices had been less "highly" manipulated, maybe some of the carmakers would have been less profitable and maybe not, and maybe our Belgian neighbours would not have enjoyed the benefits of competitive offerings.

K. G. Speyer,
208 City Road, EC1.

Offices and rates in London

From the Greater London
Council Member for Hendon:
North

Sir.—In Robin Paisley's account (November 9) of the Labour Greater London Council's so-called "Job creation campaign" reference was made to a long, closely-argued report submitted to the last GLC meeting.

The report was certainly long. Its argument, though close, was fallacious. For example, it ignored evidence from the GLC's own economic policy group which showed that business rates in inner London can be equivalent to 80 per cent or more of the total rent plus rates office occupation cost. Inner London boroughs cited by economic policy group are Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Islington. In outer London boroughs such as Croydon, Barnet or Ealing, the rate percentage falls to 30 per cent.

The rent/rates ratio is undoubtedly a factor in the decision made by many companies to move their offices from inner to outer London. Rates to that extent are a voluntary tax. So should rents be. Companies who rent office accommodation

should have the choice of a free market. The present GLC, however, is determined to reduce the amount of office building in greater London. Thereby, it will of course create a situation of rationing which can only have the effect of pushing up office rentals. That in turn will mean more job losses in greater London as companies seek both lower rates and lower rents elsewhere.

The Conservatives on the GLC welcome a surplus of office accommodation because that will have the effect of driving down office rents in the capital.

The Labour GLC is blinded by its prejudices against business ratepayers so that it is unable to see the impact on employment of its own policies.

As for the claim that the GLC through the Greater London Enterprise Board has created or preserved 1,200 jobs, I wish my colleagues had been pressing for an itemised list of where these 1,200 jobs came from. So far, such lists have not been provided, either by the GLC or by the Greater London Enterprise Board.

Bryan Cassidy
(Opposition Spokesman on
Industry and Employment),
County Hall, SE1

Sour view of consultants

From the Executive Director,
Management Consultants
Association

Sir.—It would be interesting to know who or what gave Mr K. H. Holland his sour view of consultants expressed in your columns on November 8. His letter suggests that he has little direct experience of management consultants. Certainly his knowledge cannot be recent. It might have been valid to talk of a management consultancy craze 15 years ago (though a craze for a *bête noire* is at a time a curious concept), but nowadays the great majority of management consultancies employ consultants with hard-headed discernment.

Members of the Management Consultants Association have worked for nearly all of the Top 100 companies and have a long-standing and continuing association with most of them. At the other end of the scale,

consultants during the last five years have been assisting manufacturing units employing 60,000 persons, who have availed themselves of the support of the Manufacturing Advisory Service. For its report on activities in 1982, the MAS assessed the results of the assistance given to a sample of the 3,000 firms to whom consultants had been assigned: 96 per cent of the companies assessed were satisfied and 78 per cent were well satisfied.

Where results could be quantified, MAS stated that savings to firms over a three-year period were more than 12 times the cost to public funds; the MAS described the scheme as "an outstanding success."

There does seem to be some evidence to support a less sour view of consultants.

M. W. Hicks-Beach,
Executive Director,
23-24 Cromwell Place, SW7.

No nationalisation in Greece

From the Greek Ambassador

Sir.—In a piece entitled "Greek row over threat of state takeover" on October 4, your Athens correspondent correctly referred to the "nationalisation" of the Heraclides General Company.

What in fact actually happened is that far from the government "nationalising" the company, its board of directors decided to resign following serious fraud charges tabled against them in court. The majority shareholders then

appointed a new board and placed a representative on the largest shareholder, the National Bank of Greece, which owns 41 per cent of total shares—as its new chairman.

Surely your correspondent cannot persist in arguing that such action amounts to a government takeover rather than standard application of long-standing and internationally applicable company law.

Nikos Kyriakidis,
Ambassador,
16 Holland Park, W11

Taxation of multinationals

From the Chairman,
Unitary Tax Campaign

Sir.—The letter from Mr Kenneth Cory, controller of the State of California on tax avoidance by multinationals which you published on October 31 is an engaging example of seeking to divert readers' attention from the real issues.

United taxation came into existence originally towards the end of the 19th century and was designed to allocate or apportion some reasonably equitable basis the profits of railroads between the various states in which they operated so as to allow those states which taxed business profits to have some, albeit rough and ready, measure of the profit earned within their state. As such, although it may have been rather crude, it was an allocation and did not result in more than 100 per cent of the total profit being subject to tax. It has since become in practice an inequitable method of taxing profits earned outside the U.S.

Arms-length pricing, on which Mr Cory pours such scorn, is one which both relies upon an economic principle of considerable standing (i.e., that of market value) and has proved acceptable to the vast majority of developed countries both in framing their domestic tax laws and in entering into double

treaties with other countries. It would be singularly ingenuous to suggest that sophisticated corporations would not naturally minimise their taxes. On the other hand, all are accustomed to arms-length pricing and the laws and procedures in force in many countries to ensure that this principle is followed. Specifically in the UK and the U.S. there are "arms-length" provisions in their domestic statutes (Section 485 of the Taxes Act, 1970, and Section 482 of the Internal Revenue Code respectively) and in the double taxation treaty (Article 25) there are procedures for the resolution of disputes (the so-called "competent authority" procedure) which effectively enable the respective revenue authorities to judge whether arms-length prices are being charged and at the same time prevent double taxation which would otherwise occur were the different revenue authorities to hold different views of what is an arms-length price. This principle and these procedures are also the policy of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and are contained within the OECD model tax treaty.

Mr Cory refers to unfairness and implies that the world-wide combined reporting (WWCR)

method of applying unitary taxation is fair. The WWCR method in California uses the so-called "3 factor" approach. Under this method the Californian proportion of sales revenues, payroll costs and property values to the group totals is established and this proportion is used to allocate to California what it regards as its share of the worldwide profit. Aside from the lack of impartiality in the application of WWCR, this is about as crude an economic assumption as assuming that everyone in the world earns the same income. It takes no account of differences in remuneration scales, in productivity, in asset values or in product prices.

With this sort of simplistic approach, we can presumably dispose with sophisticated things like accounting systems, tax authorities and indeed governments. I understand California has given evidence that were it not to tax on WWCR it would lose revenue of approximately \$500m per annum. On the basis that California represents little over 10 per cent of the U.S. GDP and that California tax rates are approximately one-fifth those of the Federal Government, this would imply (very broadly I admit) that something like \$50bn per

annum of corporate profits are escaping Federal taxation. I do not doubt that the IRS, along with every revenue authority in the world, believes it fair that all that fails to be taxed, but this were in true, implies the IRS is thoroughly failing down on its job. From experience of the professionalism of IRS audits and other compliance procedure, I find it amazing. Surely the reality is that the vast majority of this \$500m is tax unfair and capriciously imposed on profits earned, not only outside California but outside the U.S. by tax payers who can reasonably claim to be the victims of taxation without representation.

Much has been made of the wishes of California and other states to retain their freedom to tax in whatever way they choose. This we are told is a freedom enshrined in the states rights provisions of the Constitution. Presumably with this freedom would go the preparedness to negotiate treaties both with other sovereign states and with their political subdivisions. Or would California prefer that the ordinary courtesies of international affairs, designed to provide symmetry in taxation are denied?

P. J. Welch,
6 Buckingham Place, SW1

Regenerating European industry

The self-help seventeen

By John Lloyd



"The most surprising thing was, everyone was concerned," says Mr Gyllenhammar.

Of the 17 first-rankers to be invited, only one—Sir Peter Baxendell of Shell International—had dropped out, and was immediately replaced with Mr Ian MacGregor of the National Coal Board.

The latest meeting in Geneva achieved agreement in principle on how—and with what—the group will go public.

Projects its members will propose include major infrastructural schemes, of the kind which governments or the EEC usually undertake—for example, the Channel tunnel, so close to Mr MacGregor's heart—and major industrial developments on which a number of companies could collaborate.

The group members may or may not be involved in the work themselves. They may take no other part than identifying projects and trying to bring together money and expertise to get them done.

The programmes will tend to be trans-European and to contribute to the unity of the market. They will also have to be profitable, even if only over a long time period. "They have to turn a buck," says Mr Ekman. "There is a very strong anti-subsidy mood in the group."

The group will express close interest in education, standardisation of technologies and freedom of internal trade.

The projects are the key, and the shape of the programme should become clear early next year. The EEC certainly wants to succeed. Viscount Dugdale and M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, both attended the group's Paris meeting.

Neither Mr Gyllenhammar nor his group are modest men. If they succeed, they are bound to make a splash. They will have returned to self-help—but they will also be living dangerously.

No more subsidies, patronage or bail-outs; the free enterprise rhetoric is now to be taken seriously. It is stirring stuff; it could be very important; but Gyllenhammar and his band of merchant-adventurers have to prove they can trim nearly four decades of fat and that will take some doing.

Price differences in EEC cars

From Mr K. G. Speyer

Sir.—No amount of special pleading by Mr Turnbull (November 4) is likely to convince one who has made his case, which is not helped by his ignoring one of the main points of Mr Crowther's letter (October 10), this being that our state subsidised BIL's uncompetitive prices allow all its competitors, most of which are now foreign, a niveau of car prices in this country only, which is especially profitable for them by courtesy of the British taxpayer.

It is probable that the UK is the most profitable mass market for foreigners, the most profitable anywhere in the world!

Mr Turnbull ends his special pleading with another non sequitur, eg "the profitability or otherwise of eight European car makers in this country".

If our domestic car prices had been less "highly" manipulated, maybe some of the carmakers would have been less profitable and maybe not, and maybe our Belgian neighbours would not have enjoyed the benefits of competitive offerings.

K. G. Speyer,
208 City Road, EC1.

Where results could be quantified, MAS stated that savings to firms over a three-year period were more than 12 times the cost to public funds; the MAS described the scheme as "an outstanding success."

There does seem to be some evidence to support a less sour view of consultants.

M. W. Hicks-Beach,
Executive Director,
23-24 Cromwell Place, SW7.

Thus, I feel the argument

is not price competitive; some Japanese offerings which have to be transported across half the globe may be due in some slight measure to the working practices here, the high salaries which the leaders of Mr Turnbull's society pay themselves and have paid themselves irrespective of the profitability of their management, the equality of reward, the skills of the workforce under these conditions, etc. The only people who deservedly get nothing when the company makes losses are the shareholders. At least they cannot be accused of impropriety.

My advice to consumers in this country is to follow me and abstain from buying cars at inflated prices as long as they can last out. They may be surprised to find out how many years this can be.

K. G. Speyer,
208 City Road, EC1.

My advice to consumers in this country is to follow me and abstain from buying cars at inflated prices as long as they can last out. They may be surprised to find out how many years this can be.

K. G. Speyer,
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday November 15 1983

NEW MINISTER STRESSES PAYMENTS DEFICIT

Israel reverses economic policy

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

MR YIGAL COHEN-ORGAD, the new Israeli Finance Minister, has reversed the economic policy of his predecessor. He announced yesterday that he was making a reduction in the country's \$50m balance of payments deficit his primary target and relegating the battle to control inflation to a secondary role.

The new minister was appointed following last month's resignation of Mr Yoram Aridor when word leaked out that the latter had a radical plan to replace the shekel with the dollar. Mr Cohen-Orgad said that he believed cutting the deficit by \$800m a year was a more urgent task than trying to bring down the rise in the cost of living. Inflation is running at more than 130 per cent annually.

"As a small country, with a gross national product of \$25bn, we cannot afford such a payments gap," the Minister said. He wanted to in-

crease export earnings, currently \$10bn a year, by 15 per cent annually over the next two years. The import figure, of \$16bn, would have to be curbed.

To rectify the situation, the Government had introduced a policy of controlled austerity towards the local market, by using our resources to encourage the expansion of exports," he said.

Steps already taken included the reintroduction of a realistic exchange rate for the shekel and making credit readily available to exporters. A tight credit policy was being applied to the internal market and the Government had already trimmed Shm from the \$25bn national budget.

If debt servicing, which accounts for a third of the budget, was discounted, the cuts already decided represented 13 per cent of the remaining total.

Mr Cohen-Orgad pledged that the spending cuts would be spread across the public services. Not only would there be cuts in the areas of food subsidies, education and health, but even the \$350m-\$400m Jewish settlement programme on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan would be reduced by 10 per cent.

The Finance Minister rejected any immediate attempt at curbing inflation by altering the country's system of linking wage rises automatically to increases in the cost of living.

"The time to get out of indexation is far ahead of us," he said. First, inflation had to be brought down to a "manageable level." This, he hoped, could be achieved within a year.

But the Government's recent support programme for beleaguered bank shares had not cost as much as had seemed. Although the Gov-

ernment spent \$520m buying up shares, two thirds of this had been re-circulated through the public purchase of Government bonds and dollar holdings in the banks.

Mr Cohen-Orgad expressed considerable satisfaction over the record \$2.5bn aid package just approved by the U.S. Congress for next year. He appealed to Washington, however, to provide more favourable terms for imports.

• The Israeli Cabinet yesterday reviewed the military situation in Lebanon, particularly Syria's involvement, amid reports that the fragile ceasefire there might be in danger of collapse, news agencies report from Tel Aviv. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said the Cabinet had "heard reports of the situation in Syria, Syria's policy and its military might," and would take up the issue again next week.

Beirut ceasefire falters Page 7

Failure of IBH and Wibau hits UK group

By Peter Bruce in London

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL, the big UK engineering group, confirmed yesterday that it would have to write off assets, probably worth more than £20m (\$29.7m), after the collapse of two West German construction equipment groups, IBH Holdings and Wibau AG. The move quickly followed the appointment of receivers at Wibau UK.

Babcock was unable to say how big the write-off would be, since little is known about how well attempts to rescue the two groups are progressing, but a spokesman said it would be "substantial". Provisions are likely to be made in the group's 1983 accounts, but below the line and will, therefore, not affect profit or dividends.

Babcock put its total exposure to the failure of the West German groups at £41m. Its 10.06 per cent stake in IBH is valued at £19.2m and it is still owed £3.8m by Wibau, which bought the Babcock construction equipment business last year. In addition, it is liable as guarantee for up to £13m in certain banking and other facilities granted to the companies now part of Wibau, chiefly those in Wibau UK.

A Babcock statement emphasised, however, that it was unlikely that the company would lose the full amount. A number of the IBH and Wibau companies are likely to be sold. Wibau UK, in particular, holds strong market positions through its Blaw-Knox and Wiget subsidiaries.

It is likely, however, that Babcock will write off the entire £10.2m invested in IBH, the major shareholder in Wibau at the time Babcock sold its construction equipment business. There has been virtually no return on the investment, which is still in Babcock's books at the original cost.

It was also clear yesterday that Babcock would write off at least part of its Wibau assets in its year-end balance sheet on December 31. The group has a second charge over Wibau UK assets, worth an estimated £24m, to cover its loan guarantees, but the board is likely to take a conservative view on the outstanding £8.8m and hopes that some of the subsidiaries will be saved.

Terry Dodsworth in New York writes: Terex Corporation, the principal US unit of IBH, has put almost half its workforce on a four-day week and cut pay by 20 per cent as part of its reorganisation under Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

The company said yesterday that the reduction in working hours had been confined to 570 salaried employees so far, but discussions on similar cuts were being held with the group's hourly paid workers.

Terex filed for the protection of the US courts 10 days ago after similar action by IBH.

Italy urges Nato to use every effort to continue missile talks

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ITALY believes Nato must do everything possible to keep negotiations on intermediate range nuclear missiles going, with the aim of reaching the lowest possible level of deployment on each side, Sig Bertrand Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, said in Rome last night.

He confirmed that Italy would be going ahead with the deployment of the first "very limited" number of cruise missiles, which he said would become operational "in the spring". The missiles are to be based at Comiso, Sicily.

Sig Craxi was opening a major three-day parliamentary debate on the missile question, which will end with a vote on Wednesday night. Although the ruling five-party coalition is expected to win the vote comfortably, Sig Craxi said in the October Revolution parade

position to the missiles put up by the Communist Party.

Sig Craxi said that even at this stage of the negotiations the most recent Western proposals on missile reduction could be further clarified and quantified to "constitute a visible point of reference for a further phase of the negotiations."

He said he had recently written to President Ronald Reagan stressing the importance of keeping "a line of flexibility tied to firmness" and telling him that "our job now is that of exploring again and with immediacy all the negotiating possibilities, to avoid the failure of the Geneva negotiations."

Sig Craxi spoke, demonstrating outside the parliament building thatched slogans.

Although the Italian peace movement is small and not well organised, it has gained strength in re-

cent weeks, partly because of the big turnout at the demonstration in Rome a few weeks ago, which was largely organised by the Communists.

The Communist Party yesterday proposed postponing cruise missile deployment for a year in order to allow time for a settlement to be negotiated at Geneva.

Sig Craxi is keen to appear as flexible as possible on the missile question, partly in order to obtain Communist Party acquiescence in other parts of his policy.

Last week he pointedly attended the Soviet ambassador's reception in Rome for the anniversary of the Russian revolution, while Sig Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, ordered the Italian ambassador in Moscow to attend the October Revolution parade

Zanussi wins pact to cut jobs

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ZANUSSI, Italy's troubled white goods manufacturer, has agreed with the trade unions on a substantial labour force reduction the first step in its three-year recovery plan.

The unions have agreed to a cut of 5,600 in the company's Italian workforce of 24,000. The reduction will be spread over three years and will be achieved by lay-offs, part-time work, early retirement and other devices, but not by redundancies.

The management, which is based at Pordenone in north-east Italy, has

agreed with the unions outline policies for the future of some of the company's less successful plants and subsidiaries.

Among those is Ducati Electronics of Bologna, which makes electronic components. It has been decided that REL, the Italian state-owned company recently formed to rescue parts of the electronics industry, will take a stake, while Zanussi is still negotiating with the U.S. company Arctronics, part of Wedge, to sell its own participation.

Zanussi is to look for a purchaser

for several other of its smaller subsidiaries.

Zanussi can now concentrate on the next two stages of its recovery plan - getting the agreement of its creditors to a freezing of its debts and getting the group recapitalised. Last year, Zanussi lost £130m (£80m) and its debt is expected to reach about £1,000m this year, compared with £670m in 1982.

With only £80m in equity, it is badly in need of new funds, which it hopes to obtain from a consortium of leading Italian entrepreneurs

French state coal group chief resigns

Continued from Page 1

M. Lionel Jospin, Socialist Party Secretary, who was speaking clearly for M. Mitterrand, recently warned the Communists that their criticisms of government policies on economic issues, where they feel their cause is more popular, rather than on international issues, where they stand isolated in French opinion. M. Valbon is also largely an honorary head of CAF, unlike the only other Communist member of a state corporation, M. Claude Quin, president of the RATP, the Paris transport network.

The Communists, while staying within the Government, want to maintain their freedom to criticise.

In reinforcing their point through the resignation of M. Valbon, the Communists hope to focus their differences with the Socialists on economic issues, where they feel their cause is more popular, rather than on international issues, where they stand isolated in French opinion.

M. Valbon is also largely an honorary head of CAF, unlike the only other Communist member of a state corporation, M. Claude Quin, president of the RATP, the Paris transport network.

M. Valbon's resignation comes on the eve of the National Assembly debate on the coal industry budget.

Cut-rate Soviet oil threat to Opec price

BY RICHARD JOHNS

A POTENTIALLY dangerous fissure in the world oil price structure appeared yesterday as the Nefazogazexport, the Soviet state oil agency, offered a French customer a discount of 40 cents a barrel for Urals Blend crude.

The unidentified French company was reported by Reuter news agency to have rejected the offer in the expectation of improved terms tomorrow.

Since the Soviet Union came into line with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and the UK in April the official selling price for Urals Blend had been \$29.50 a barrel c.i.f. North-west Europe, but on the spot market rates for it have slipped below \$29 per barrel in recent weeks.

Nefazogazexport has been under strong pressure for some weeks from contract holders to cut its selling rate and there has been speculation that it would do so as the spot market continued to sag.

So far Qatar, with discounts of up to \$1 per barrel, has been the only member of Opec to have been the only member of Opec to

have cut prices in sales of crude on the spot market.

The continued decline of spot market rates has led to growing doubts among traders about how tenable the present price structure will prove to be in the absence of a very severe winter.

On the spot market prices have reached their lowest point since the beginning of April largely as a result of Opec's output since July, which has exceeded its 17.5m barrels collective ceiling.

Against this gloomy background Opec's long-term strategy committee, under the chairmanship of Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian Minister of Oil, will meet in London in October.

The six ministers on the committee are not expected to discuss formally over-production by members.

The latest edition of Petroleum Intelligence Weekly calculates that Opec production has fallen to 17.8m b/d compared with a high point of 19.0m b/d in September, as a result of slack demand.

Editorial comment, Page 18

Steel prices get mixed reception

Continued from Page 1

British Steel, the state-owned group, had kept itself "abreast of discussions" in the Commission to stop the downward drift of steel prices, but had no comment yesterday. GKN Steelstock, Britain's largest independent stockholder, was "delighted that a move has been made and something has been done to stabilise prices."

The British Independent Steel Producers Association wanted more details before reacting to the proposals. Most of their members were unlikely to be directly affected, as they do not make strip, plate or heavy section steel, the main prod-

Thatcher to visit Hungary next year

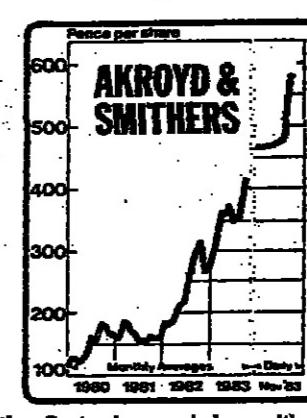
By Peter Riddell in London

MRS Margaret Thatcher, the UK Prime Minister, will visit Hungary early next year, her first journey to a Warsaw Pact country since she took office in 1979. Her visit is intended as an important step towards opening discussions with the Eastern bloc and a step back from some of the hard-line rhetoric of recent years.

The Premier announced the trip last night during her speech to the City of London's Lord Mayor's ban-

THE LEX COLUMN

Akroyd moves into Mercury's orbit



is spending so heavily on its refurbishment programme that profits growth has suffered noticeably. At £51.5m for the six months to September, pre-tax profits are a meagre 6 per cent higher than the year before.

The deceleration is partly the result of the loss of rentals, as properties are pulled out of the active portfolio to be sold or given the treatment, and it partly reflects the reduction in cash balances, and interest receipts, as the work proceeds. When the cash outflow begins (or flattens out if more refinancing projects are undertaken)

Lands' underlying revenue growth will start to show through again in 1984-85 - and by that time there also should be evidence that the capital spending has led to enhanced income from properties like Devonshire House and King William Street.

Meanwhile, the portfolio valuation is probably growing much in line with pre-tax profits at about 8 per cent, so last night's share price of 33p, up 1p, represents a discount of no more than 24 per cent of prospective net assets on a fully diluted basis.

UK share ownership

The British Government used to show its concern for that endangered species, the personal investor in equities, by carrying out a survey of share ownership at public expense once every six years. The survey has now become a small but successful instance of privatisation, with the London Stock Exchange carrying on this doubtful duty up to 1981.

The results of the analysis contain few surprises. Personal shareholdings had shrivelled in only 20 per cent, from 36 per cent in the previous survey of 1975, while the institutions had jacked up their share of the market from 46 to 53 per cent. It can make only a marginal difference to these figures that some of the craftier private investors have in recent years been turning their holdings into tax-efficient personal investment trusts.

What may cause the odd eyebrow to rise is the increasing dominance of the pension funds over other institutions. Their holdings had jumped from 17 to 27 per cent of the total, while the unit trusts and investment trusts were actually losing ground.

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SECTION II - INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday November 15 1983



Akzo extends profit recovery and restores dividend

By WALTER ELLIS IN AMSTERDAM

AKZO, the Dutch chemicals group, continues to head the European corporate recovery league with a jump in third quarter profits and a return to interim dividends.

Third quarter 1983 sales are 11 per cent ahead at F1 3.75bn (\$1.25bn), and net profits have almost quadrupled to F1 12m from F1 2.9m. The performance extends nine-month earnings to F1 284.4m against F1 114.9m.

The recovery is allowing Akzo to pay an interim dividend of F1 1 a share. For 1982 shareholders received a final payment of only F1 1.60 a share.

Akzo's share price, already trading high after steadily improving results earlier in the year, improved further yesterday and closed at F1 81.20, F1 1.90 up on the start of the day.

The turnaround has not been achieved without cost. Some 2,500 workers have lost their jobs this year, a number of them employed by the formerly loss-making Enka fibres division.

Enka in the U.S. has been the focus of efforts aimed at stemming eight years of deficit by the fibres division. Now Enka, with headquarters in West Germany, should end 1983 in the black.

Enka expects to benefit from the

Activision bids to stem losses with job cuts

By LOUISE KEHOE IN SAN FRANCISCO

TWO troubled Silicon Valley companies have announced measures designed to return them to profitability. Activision, the video game publisher, has laid off a quarter of its 375 employees, and Victor Technologies has put a venture capitalist in charge of its operations in an attempt to reverse losses.

Activision's difficulties reflect a dramatic softening in demand for video games. The company recently reported a \$1.1m loss for the quarter ending September 30, compared with a profit of \$1.4m for the corresponding period last year.

Victor Technologies, which has already reduced its workforce by 1,650 this year, is reorganising its management. Mr Charles I. Peddele

has stepped down as company president and chief executive officer, and Mr Michael E. Faherty, a Texas venture capitalist, has been appointed as a consultant to the personal computer manufacturers.

Industry sources describe Mr Faherty as a trouble-shooter who will eliminate Victor's management problems very quickly. Victor had \$1.1m on revenues of \$66.6m for the second quarter and expects losses for the current quarter to be substantially worse.

Victor became a leading supplier of computers for use in small businesses last year, but the company's fortunes have dived in the past four months, and debts now stand at more than \$90m.

Occidental sells Permian to Simon

By William Hall in New York

WESRAY, a private investment firm headed by Mr William Simon, the former U.S. Treasury Secretary, is to buy Occidental Petroleum's Permian oil transportation business.

The terms of the deal are similar to an earlier one which fell through earlier this month. In September Occidental announced it was selling Permian to the Canadian-based First City Financial Corporation, controlled by the Belzberg family. But a fortnight ago Occidental and First City Financial announced they were not going ahead with the deal.

Wesray has agreed to pay Occidental \$250m in cash, a promissory note for a further \$75m, cash from the sale of existing crude oil inventory valued at about \$50m, and a warrant to purchase 7.5 per cent of the stock of the Wesray operations.

Occidental will also retain certain of Permian's assets.

Since leaving government service, Mr Simon has been involved in a number of deals, while sales of coatings over the nine months finished well ahead of the same period in 1982.

K mart set to beat forecast

By Terry Byland in New York

A POWERFUL gain in the third quarter has put K mart, second largest of the U.S. retail store chains, well on the way to exceeding Wall Street forecasts for the full year.

Net earnings jumped by 170 per cent to \$61.4m, or 63 cents a share, for the third quarter on sales up 11.6 per cent ahead of 1982.

At the nine-month stage, K mart, which operates stores throughout the U.S. as well as in Canada and Puerto Rico and has established an export business, has pushed earnings up by 152 per cent to \$243.7m, or \$1.89 a share. Sales have gained 11 per cent to \$12.95bn.

K mart became a leading supplier of computers for use in small businesses last year, but the company's fortunes have dived in the past four months, and debts now stand at more than \$90m.

All of these securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

Elf expects to lose FFr 1.2bn on chemicals

By PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

ELF AQUITAINE, the French state-controlled oil group, expects its newly acquired chemicals operations to lose FFr 1.2bn (\$147.3m) this year. But the company, which is likely to report group earnings of FFr 3.5bn this year, believes it can make the new chemicals assets break even by the end of 1984.

Elf has been chosen by the French Government to become the centrepiece in a restructuring of the French chemicals industry. To this end, last June it took over the loss-making heavy chemicals operations of the nationalised Pechiney aluminium group and full control of the basic chemicals assets it jointly

owned with Total, the other large French oil group.

Elf has regrouped those assets into a new subsidiary called Atochem, whose sales are expected to total FFr 16bn this year. Elf's total group sales last year amounted to FFr 11.8bn.

M Michel Pecquier, the new chairman of Elf, and M René Sautier, head of Elf's chemicals operations, yesterday disclosed the group's broad strategy to return its new chemicals operations to the black. Both senior executives warned however that profitability would ultimately depend on Elf's securing better pricing policies for chemicals

products on the French market, cheaper electricity from Electricité de France (EDF) the French electricity utility, an improved international economic outlook and the ability to rationalise and restructure its operations in France.

Elf plans to reduce its heavy chemicals workforce by 2,000 over the next three years and to invest FFr 800m-FFr 900m a year in its chemicals business. M Sautier said 60 per cent of this sum would come from internal resources, with the balance being raised on the money market.

M Pecquier and M Sautier disclosed yesterday that Elf was negoti-

ating with EDF the supply of lower-cost electricity for Elf's chemicals operations. Elf, they said, accounted for 3 per cent of France's industrial electricity output. They claimed that a reduction in cost was essential to make the businesses competitive again, but they would not disclose details of the talks with EDF. Pechiney has already negotiated a contract with EDF for lower-cost electricity involving the aluminium group taking a stake in a French nuclear power station.

M Sautier said part of Elf's chemicals strategy was to secure joint ventures and collaboration pacts with other international producers in sectors where Elf was relatively weak. But he claimed that such pacts were currently impossible to negotiate because of the French Government's artificial price-fixing policies for chemicals products in France.

He claimed, however, that the Government had become aware of the problem and had started to increase the price of certain products in France. He hoped prices on the French market would be on the same level as in other European countries by next year.

M Sautier said Elf had no intention of increasing its current capacity in the basic chemicals sector.

Texas Air into loss

By DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

TEXAS AIR, the parent company of Continental Airlines, has suffered a \$62m loss, or \$5.07 a share, in the third quarter, compared with profits of \$7.1m, or 97 cents, in the same period of last year.

The results include a \$7.2m loss from Continental, which reported only a few days ago, and which is now operating under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code.

In addition, the figures embrace a \$2.3m profit by New York Air in which the group has a 65 per cent interest, and a \$10.7m gain from the sale of an 11.1 per cent equity stake in New York Air.

For the first nine months of this year Texas Air's losses amounted to \$122.4m or \$10.44 a share, against a deficit of \$31.6m or \$3.43 in the same period of last year.

Trilogy sale raises \$60m

By Our San Francisco Correspondent

TRILogy SYSTEMS, the California company founded by U.S. computer pioneer Mr Gene Amdahl, has raised \$60m in a successful initial public offering of 5m shares on the U.S. over-the-counter market.

The shares, priced at \$12 each, sold out immediately. The success of last week's offering, despite a negative climate for both high-technology stocks and initial public offerings, reflects widespread excitement about the company's prospects.

Atlas Copco profits down 24%

By DAVID BROWN IN STOCKHOLM

ATLAS COPCO, the Swedish compressed air and hydraulic machinery group, reported a 24 per cent decline in pre-tax earnings before extraordinary items to Skr 135m for the nine months to September. Sales were 6 per cent up at Skr 5.8bn.

Despite the gradual improvement in the economic climate in most of the group's market areas, construction activity remains low in most industrial developing countries, demand for metals continues to be weak, and no general upturn is expected this year.

Costs of Skr 5.2bn climbed faster than sales, and the operating result after depreciation was down Skr 61m to Skr 469m compared with the corresponding period last year. Net costs declined Skr 13m to Skr 314m, with lower net interest costs, as a result of better liquidity, outweighing higher exchange

losses stemming from the high dollar rate and a devaluation in Brazil. Sales outside Sweden accounted for 91 per cent of the group total.

Extraordinary losses declined from Skr 32m to Skr 5m, and the pre-tax result fell Skr 21m to Skr 150m. Return on sales fell 1 percentage point from 3.7 per cent for the nine months last year. Return on total capital employed fell from 16.9 per cent to 14.2 per cent on a 12-month basis, and earnings after financial items from Skr 376m to Skr 305m.

Sales climbed 52 per cent to Skr 5.5bn, but costs advanced at a slower rate. Operating profits after depreciation, at Skr 417m, compared with a loss of Skr 40m over the same period last year.

Boliden predicts its year-end result will reach Skr 450m.

Boliden recovers

By Our Stockholm Correspondent

BOLIDEN, the Swedish minerals, metals and chemicals group, reported pre-tax profits of Skr 290m (\$36.7m) before extraordinary items for the first nine months of the year, compared with a Skr 150m loss last year.

Sales climbed 52 per cent to Skr 5.5bn, but costs advanced at a slower rate. Operating profits after depreciation, at Skr 417m, compared with a loss of Skr 40m over the same period last year.

Boliden predicts its year-end result will reach Skr 450m.

Hoffmann in U.S. expansion

By John Wicks in Zurich

HOFGMANN-La Roche, the Swiss chemicals group, is buying American Diagnostic Corporation, of Newport Beach, California, a company which produces medical diagnostic test kits.

In the nine months to June 30, American Diagnostics booked revenue of over \$2.5m and a net loss \$1.1m.

Hope for Italian semiconductors

By ALAN FRIEDMAN IN ROME

SCOS-ATES, Italy's only manufacturer of semiconductors, is expected to return to profit next year for the first time in 10 years. The company, a subsidiary of the state-owned Stet holding company, has been improving steadily since Sig Pasquale Pistorio, an Italian-born U.S. businessman, returned to Italy three years ago to take over as managing director.

Sig Pistorio embarked upon a

radical restructuring scheme which is expected to see losses reduced this year from a level of L45bn (\$28.1m) last year to L25bn. Sales in the third quarter of this year rose 70 per cent, and the company's orders are now said to be running at a level some 150 per cent above last year.

An agreement for the exchange of technology was signed with Toshiba of Japan last year, and a similar agreement has been reached with National Semiconductor. The bulk of this total to Olivetti. But

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



Royal Trustco Limited

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Canadian \$50,000,000

12½% Debentures due November 15, 1988

Issue Price 100%

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All of these Securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue / October, 1983



11,000,000 Shares
CSX Corporation
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(\$1 par value)

Salomon Brothers Inc

Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb
Incorporated

Merrill Lynch Capital Markets

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ABD Securities Corporation

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Securities Corporation

E. F. Hutton & Company Inc.

Prudential-Bache
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L. F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin
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Incorporated

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc.

Atlantic Capital
Corporation

Bear, Stearns & Co.

Alex. Brown & Sons

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Kidder, Peabody & Co.
Incorporated

Basle Securities Corporation



Siderúrgica Lázaro
Cárdenas - Las Truchas, S.A.
U.S.\$65,000,000 Floating Rates Notes due 1989
In accordance with the provisions of the above Notes, notice is
hereby given that for the six months from 1st November 1983
to 1st May 1984 the Notes will carry an interest rate of
10 1/2% per annum.

The interest payable on each U.S.\$10,000 Note on the relevant
interest payment date, 1st May 1984, against Coupon No. 4
will be U.S.\$524.51.

Agent Bank:



U.S. \$50,000,000
Hapoalim International N.V.

Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1984

Final six months
18/11/83 to 16/5/84
The Notes will carry an
interest rate of 10 1/2% per annum
Coupon Value U.S.\$518.19
Listed on The Stock Exchange, London

Price cuts hit Japan's drug groups

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOYOKA

JAPAN'S SIX leading pharmaceutical companies have reported lower than expected increases in parent company sales for the first half of September. The main reason for this was the January cut in the Government's reimbursement price as well as other moves by the state to lower its burgeoning health bill.

The prospect of yet another cut in prices during the current half year and of intensified competition has made most of the drug manufacturers lower sharply their full-year earnings forecasts.

Takeda Chemical Industries, the largest in terms of turnover, reported sales of its drug sector as rising by 3.5 per cent to account for 62 per cent of turnover. A decline in the direct sales of drugs to hospitals, with the exception of sales of Bestacil, its new third generation antibiotic, held down sales in this sector. However, strong growth in industrial chemical sales helped boost overall turnover.

Pre-tax profits at Takeda were up 24 per cent at Y5.8bn (U.S.\$109m) while the interim dividend was unchanged at Y3.75.

For the year to March 1984 the company forecasts sales of Y480bn, a rise of 2.3 per cent on the strength of its new drug sales. Net profits are forecast as rising by 1.0 per cent to Y47bn. The term-end dividend is seen as Y3.75 for an unchanged total of Y3.75.

At Sanryo drug sales rose by 5 per cent to account for \$4.1 per cent of turnover with re-

turns from the company's long-established cancer drug Kremlin and second generation antibiotic Cefmetazone still satisfactory.

However, sales of its newer drugs were disappointing. The company's lack of its own product for the intensely competitive but highly profitable third generation antibiotic market is believed to be holding down sales to reduce earnings.

Fujisawa Pharmaceutical

The interim dividend is unchanged at Y3.75. In the current half the company fears that it will be affected by the January 1984 revision of the official reimbursement price which will cover one of its long established products. Lower demand from hospitals is also expected to reduce earnings.

Fujisawa expects full year sales of Y230bn, up by 7.2 per

FIRST-HALF RESULTS OF MAJOR JAPANESE DRUG COMPANIES

	Net profit Ybn	Percentage increase	Sales Ybn	Percentage increase
Takeda CI	10.2	0.7	246	5.0
Sanryo	4.5	7.4	114	5.6
Fujisawa	6.9	4.3	106	11.5
Shionogi	6.2	74.0	92	0.1
Eizai	3.8	2.4	70	8.5
Taisho	7.6	0.6	52	6.5
Daiichi Seiyaku	1.5	27.5	42	4.7
Sanyu	1.1	-20.9	34	-3.8

appears not to have suffered adversely from the major scandal that erupted two months ago and led to several of its senior executives being arrested on allegations of bribery and theft of competitors' secrets. Most of its drugs are marketed through doctors and hospitals rather than over the counter and good sales of its third generation antibiotic, Epecolin, and of a stomach drug Tagamet, helped produce a double-digit increase in turnover.

At Sankyo drug sales rose by 5 per cent to account for \$4.1 per cent of turnover with re-

turns from the company's long-established flat sales only just compensating for a fall in turnover over its longer established products. Earnings growth arose primarily from profitable sales of its in-house developed antibiotics and exchange gains on the import of raw materials.

Pre-tax profits rose by 17 per cent to Y15.9bn and the interim dividend is unchanged at Y3.75. In the second half the same

Sasol sets terms for rights issue

By Our Johannesburg Correspondent

SASOL, the South African oil-from-coal producer, has priced its one-for-two rights issue at 415 cents a share and will issue 187.5m new shares to raise R778.1m (\$665m). The offer opens on November 25 and closes on December 9.

The proceeds will be put towards buying the state's half share in the Sasol two production facility. Sasol itself already owns half of Sasol two. The cost of the acquisition will be R2.62bn, of which R350m will come from Sasol's existing resources and R545m from the rights issue after allowing for the state's 30 per cent interest in Sasol. The remainder will be paid in instalments over five years.

Stewarts and Lloyds, the South African steel and engineering group, lifted turnover by 4.3 per cent to R501m in the year to September but operating profits fell by 14.6 per cent to R23.2m.

Low demand and increased competition reduced margins and commissioning problems continued to affect the stainless steel and hot forming hollow section mills.

At Stewarts and Lloyds, the

Sime buys major stake in Malaysian battery group

By Wong Sulong in KUALA LUMPUR

SIME DARBY, the Malaysian plantation-based conglomerate, has ventured in the manufacture of batteries, with the purchase of a majority stake in Centurion Batteries Malaysia.

Sime bought a 41.3 per cent stake in CBM from Century Batteries of Australia for an undisclosed amount. The other major shareholder in CBM is the Armed Forces Fund with 30 per cent.

Tunku Ahmad Yahaya, Sime's chief executive, said the move was in line with the group's diversification into manufacturing. Sime hopes to supply bat-

teries to the Government's made-in-Malaysia cars, due to be launched late in 1985.

The group also hopes to market batteries in other parts of South-East Asia, particularly in Hong Kong and Singapore where it has distribution franchises, and in the Philippines where it has a tyre plant.

CBM began operations 20 years ago, and is profitable. The Australian company sold its stake because of poor prospects and low margins due to intense competition from imported batteries from Japan and Taiwan which has captured 60 per cent of the Malaysian market.

The offer to buy a 41.3 per cent stake in CBM is the latest in a series of acquisitions by Sime Darby in recent years.

Major projects due for completion by 1986 include the headquarters buildings of Sime Darby, Malayan Banking, Permodalan Nasional and the Pilgrims Fund Board.

Tuan Sing in offer for SPP

By Christopher Sherwell in SINGAPORE

TUAN SING HOLDINGS, the company involved in the recent rescue of Hytex, the troubled plastic bag manufacturer, yesterday unveiled terms for a proposed takeover of SPP, a paper products manufacturer with construction and property interests.

The offer by Tuan Sing, which

is headed by entrepreneur Lim Tjoen Kong, values SPP at \$104.4m (U.S.\$48.9m) based on the price of Tuan Sing shares at the time when they and SPP shares were suddenly suspended at the end of last week.

If the offer is accepted by SPP shareholders as seems likely, the heavily-borrowed Tuan Sing would increase its size and enjoy wider public participation without an increase in debt. Only some 8 per cent of Tuan Sing's enlarged equity following the Hytex operation is not controlled by Mr Lim and his family and associates.

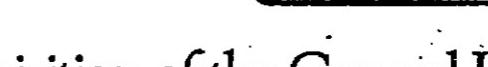
Tuan Sing is offering five ordinary shares of \$1 each for every two \$1 shares in the capital of SPP. The offer is for all 29.83m SPP shares. Tuan Sing owns no shares in SPP at present, but four Tuan Sing directors already have a beneficial interest amounting to more than 18 per cent and it is believed that one major SPP shareholder is ready to sell his stake.

SPP is an attractive target because its traditional paper manufacturing business is being rationalised, its construction activities are profit generators —80 per cent of the group's 1982 pre-tax profits came from this sector and its property interests offer regular revenues.

Under the reconstruction involved in Tuan Sing's rescue the loss-making Hytex relocated its manufacturing activities in Malaysia, and acquired two companies controlled by Mr Lim which are involved in trade confirming activities and property investment. Hytex was renamed Tuan Sing and escaped liquidation.

Much of this was achieved through the issue of new shares, and these resumed trading on the Singapore stock exchange only last week. But it was widely believed that this "reverse takeover" left Tuan Sing still needing to improve its financial structure, and an SPP takeover offers this possibility.

Talk of the SPP takeover first surfaced late last week. When trading in the shares was suspended, Tuan Sing stood at \$1.41 and SPP at \$2.70. The 23-for-1 share exchange is intended to offer SPP shareholders a sufficient premium to agree to the proposal.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the above-mentioned Warrants can be exercised no later than 11.00 a.m. (Luxembourg time) on the 29th November 1983, by delivery to Cedel S.A. of a duly completed Warrant Exercise Notice, after which time all unexercised Warrants will become void.

15th November, 1983
By: Citibank, N.Y., London (Paying Agent)

Acquisition of the Cunard International Hotel
for £14,500,000

Arranged by

CountyBank Limited

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November, 1983

MINING NEWS

Bigger loss in third quarter for Northgate

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

A SHARELY increased loss of C\$6.23m (£3.4m) for the third quarter of this year is reported by Canada's Northgate Exploration. It compares with a profit of C\$4.96m in the same period of last year which was reached after crediting exchange gains of C\$3.6m.

Northgate's loss for the first nine months of this year is brought to C\$7.06m compared with a loss of C\$11.33m a year ago. In the latest period, improved recoveries and ore grades it is felt that the actual annual production should be close to the original plan.

The deterioration in the third quarter has reflected lower production resulting from operating difficulties, including unscheduled repairs and maintenance to some underground facilities, in addition to the annual summer vacation shutdown.

The outlook for the current quarter is not too encouraging.

Hampton Areas expects approval for issue

THERE HAS BEEN some adverse comment at the direction caused by the London-registered Hampton Gold Mining Areas of 2.8m new shares at 18p to raise part of the funds needed to buy into gold joint ventures in Colorado.

However, this seem unlikely to lead to any significant number of shareholders votes against the share issue at the extraordinary meeting which will take place on November 24. Mr George Livingstone-Learmont, Hampton Areas managing director, said yesterday that he was confident shareholders would approve the deal.

There has been no opposition to the terms of the joint ventures

with Centennial Gold and Mara-

London and Manchester Group plc are pleased to announce the launch of the London and Manchester General Trust

This new Unit Trust will be managed by the Group's investment team who are responsible for assets of £600m.

Units are on offer at the fixed price of 25p from 15 November until 2 December 1983. (Minimum investment £2,000)

For details and application form contact:

The Secretary

London and Manchester (Trust Management) Limited
Winslade Park Exeter EX5 1DS

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Over-the-Counter Market

			Gross Yield	P/E
1982-83	High Low	Company	Price Change	Fully
142 120	Ass. Bnt. Ind. Ord. ...	125	-6.4 5.1	7.3 10.2
158 117	Ass. Brit. Ind. Cds. ...	125	-7.2 2.9	7.3 10.2
71 21	Alumina Group	77	-6.1 2.9	22.0 22.0
46 21	Almitage & Rhodes	28	-	—
242 894	Bardon HHI	239	-7.2 3.0	8.2 19.8
151 100	CCL 11pc Conv. Prf. ...	135	-15.6 11.2	—
220 140	Centennial Gold	52	-1.6 1.5	11.2 11.2
98 45	Deborah Services	52	-6.0 11.5	—
164 77	Frank Horsell	164	-	6.3 11.2
158 75	Frank Horsell Pr Ord	87	-15.8 1.5	6.3 11.2
92 32	George Blair	35	-8.7 5.5	2.8 4.5
55 32	Ind. Precision Castings	53	-7.1 15.7	2.8 4.5
168 83	Iris Conv. Prf.	53	-7.3 13.8	14.7 18.2
205 100	Jaguar Group	125	-17.1 1.5	5.5 10.9
111 77	James Burrough	207	+1 10.4	5.5 11.8
237 111	Robert Jenkins	130	-20.0 15.4	15.1 10.2
260 130	Southern Goldfields	83	-1 5.0	11.0 10.2
163 54	Trevian Capital	83	-1 5.0	11.0 10.2
400 385	Trevian Holdings	400	-	8.2 7.4
29 17	Unilock Holdings	47	-1 1.0	5.8 10.2
80 44	Walter Alexander	253	-1 17.1	6.8 3.8
270 214	W. C. T. F. Ltd.	253	-1 17.1	6.8 3.8

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Planning Research International N.V.

6 1/4% Convertible Subordinated Guaranteed Debentures Due 1984

DECEMBER 15, 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of December 15, 1969 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$154,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on December 15, 1983 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

18 57

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M"

bearing the following serial numbers:

26 496 726 1426 1826 3026 3826 4426 5026 5626 6226 6826 7226 8226 8826

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due December 15, 1983 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York and 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London and Paris; Bank Mees & Hoop N.V. in Amsterdam; Kreidelsbank S.A. Luxembourg; in Luxembourg; and Credito Romagnolo S.p.A. (Milano), Via Amerata, 14, Milan, Italy. Coupons due December 15, 1983 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after December 15, 1983 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption.

The Debentures are currently convertible into Planning Research Corporation Common Stock at the conversion price of \$50 per share. The right to convert the Debentures called for redemption shall terminate at the close of business on December 15, 1983.

PLANNING RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL N.V.

Dated: November 15, 1983

NOTICE

The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:

M 1853 1843 1951 2421 3685 3679 3882

COMPANY NEWS

Slater's Food poised for further advance

PRE-TAX profits of Slater's Food in Australia's Northern Territory has contracted to supply a minimum of 1,100 short tons of uranium oxide to Wisconsin Electric Power Company, a U.S. utility.

Deliveries will start around 1985 and run for several years, according to Mr Brian Ross, company secretary of Energy Resources of Australia, which operates the Ranger mine.

Mr Ross added that all deliveries will be subject to the bilateral agreement on safeguards between Australia and the U.S.

The announcement of the deal follows last week's meeting of the parliamentary party of the Australian Labor Party, which adopted a government policy several proposals from Mr Brian Ross.

These proposals included permission for the development of the huge Olympic Dam copper-uranium-gold deposit at Roxby Downs in South Australia, and approved two new contracts with Ranger.

The Wisconsin deal is expected to be followed soon by the announcement of a similar deal with Virginia Power Company, covering the supply of around 1,400 tons of uranium oxide.

The party meeting also ruled that no new mines may be developed at present, and any further contracts from Ranger or the nearby Nabarlek operation of Queensland Mines will have to await the decisions of the ALP conference next year.

Lac Minerals steps up forward sales

CANADA'S gold-producing Lac Minerals has stepped up its policy of forward sales in anticipation of continued high levels of capital spending during the remainder of this year.

Forward sales at October 31 totalled C\$24.550 oz at an average price of US\$444 per ounce. This compares with yesterday's London cash gold price of C\$352 and is equal to about C\$543 per ounce.

Lac has received an average price of C\$554 over the first nine months of this year, down from C\$592 at the same stage of 1982.

At Hemlo, where Lac has already outlined 15.4m tons at an average grade of 0.19 oz (5.9 gms/g) gold per ton, further 3.8m tons of ore near the surface grading an average of 0.18 oz, two further drills have been ordered to speed up the definition of the deposit's boundaries.

Rights issue for Samantha

A RENOUNCEMENT rights issue to raise A\$2.25m (£1.33m) is announced by the Australian gold exploration company, Samantha Exploration.

The terms are one new share at 40 cents (about 25p) for every three held. The closing date for acceptances is January 12 1984.

Meanwhile stockbrokers May and Mellers and Brisbane stockbrokers Wilson and Co are jointly to underwrite the issue. The existing shares in Samantha eased 3p to 40p in London yesterday.

In his statement in May the chairman said that the U.S. equity market had shown a strong upward trend since August 1982. He added that he remained confident in the longer term outlook for equities in the U.S. and recommended that the company should maintain a fully-invested position.

In his statement in May the chairman said that the U.S. equity market had shown a strong upward trend since August 1982.

Because of concern that the U.S. dollar might overvalue, steps have been taken to protect the sterling value of the company's portfolio by selling U.S. dollars forward against sterling. At August 26 last approximately 43.8 per cent of the company's

investments were hedged in this way.

The directors are continuing to take a positive view of the prospects of the North American markets and intend to retain a fairly fully invested position for the company.

The company, formerly known as Transatlantic Market Trust, invests in common stocks and convertible securities issued by companies incorporated in the U.S. and Canada.

There is again no interim dividend—36p gross was paid for the 1982-83 year.

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The company, formerly known as Transatlantic Market Trust, invests in common stocks and convertible securities issued by companies incorporated in the U.S. and Canada.

There is again no interim dividend—36p gross was paid for the 1982-83 year.

Because of concern that the U.S. dollar might overvalue, steps have been taken to protect the sterling value of the company's portfolio by selling U.S. dollars forward against sterling. At August 26 last approximately 43.8 per cent of the company's

investments were hedged in this way.

The directors are continuing to take a positive view of the prospects of the North American markets and intend to retain a fairly fully invested position for the company.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Midterm profit for Seagram Distillers

THE continuing impact of the (£590,000) and minorities all worldwide operations of the firm has trading of Seagram Distillers. But greatly reduced interest charges and exchange losses have enabled the group to record a profit before tax of £2.2m. (£1.05p) per share.

Principal activities of the group which is a subsidiary of the Seagram Company, are the production of Scotch whisky (Glenlivet, Glen Grant, Chivas, gin and port and sherry (Sandeman). Turnover for the half year fell by 25.4% to £29.86m, from £39.5m. (Trade profit was up 12 per cent to £9.67m (£11.07m) reflecting the effects of the recession.)

The profit was struck after interest charges £5.84m (£7.55m) and exchange losses £35,000 (£3.65m). Tax requires £287,000.

BOARD MEETINGS**FUTURE DATES**

The following meetings have been dates of board meetings of the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether these meetings are interim or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

Interims: Cable and Wireless, Godfrey Davis, GEI International, H.A.T., International Signal, London County, Ministry, Stanley, Standard and Poor's, Borsig.

Finals: New Court Trust, Scottish National Trust, Somic, Union Steel Corporation (of South Africa).

Murray Clydesdale assets rise 30p

FOR THE year ended September 30 1982 net asset value per 25p share of Murray Clydesdale increased by 30p to 97.5p. The dividend is effectively lifted to 1.4p net against 1.3p, with a final payment of 1p.

Also announced is an interim distribution, for the current year, which is effectively unchanged at 4p.

Revenue for the 12 months amounted to £6.05m, compared with £5.16m, made up of £1.7m (£1.79m) franked and £4.31m (£3.87m) unfranked.

The effect has resulted in a small increase in trading profits in the six months to July 31 1983.

The directors say that a feature of the year has been the steady build-up of the portfolio of unlisted investments, which together with the stakes in British Technology, Instruments and Murray Electronics now amount to 22 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Investments as at September 30 last represented 112.8 per cent of net assets (£23.7 per cent).

Tax for the year took £1.26m, compared with £1.21m, leaving net revenue at £1.9m (£1.89m).

Paterson Zochonis sees first half improvement in Nigeria

GROUP PROFITS of international soaps, detergents, edible oils and refrigerators concern Paterson Zochonis give every indication of being higher in the current first half than in the corresponding period last year, largely due to the performance of its Nigerian associates. Mr John Zochonis, chairman, says in his annual statement:

"Unless there is a further deterioration in the Nigerian economy, the group's manufacturing operations there should do well, even though the country's import and foreign exchange restrictions are expected to remain in force."

But Mr Zochonis comments that the efficient and uninterrupted operation of the manufacturing industries in Nigeria requires the maintenance of adequate supplies. This, in turn, is dependent upon the ability of Nigeria to maintain balances of payments so as to enable new supplies to be financed, he says.

Thus, it is impossible to look further into the future without making over-riding reservations in respect of the factors affecting the Nigerian economy generally, including the possibility of currency realignments, he concludes.

Elsewhere, although the loss of export business in Nigeria, caused by the import and foreign exchange restrictions, will take time to make good, Cussons' operations in the UK should show more sales growth after the upheavals of the previous 12 months. Other subsidiaries should make reasonable progress.

As reported on October 19 the group did better than expected for the year to May 31 1983, with pre-tax profit of £28.3m, up from £29.83m earned on turnover of £271.35m (£310.97m).

Stated earnings per share fell from 30.86p to 29.62p and the year's dividend was lifted from 4.25p to 4.5p net with a final of 3.45p (3.17p).

At year-end shareholders'

funds had risen to £104.35m (£91.5m). Fixed assets were valued at £40.69m (£36.96m) and investments in associates were £29.43m (£25.92m). Net current assets rose to £60.71m (£52.79m). During the year there was a net outflow of funds of £3.2m (£1.45m) and a rise in working capital of £4.55m (£12.07m).

Outwith ahead

The Outwith Investment Trust has shown improved figures for the half year ended September 30 1983, although increased tax has had its effect somewhat. Net asset value rose to 129.4p, compared with 115.3p six months earlier and with 94.6p on September 30 1982.

For the half year gross revenue came to £1.98m (£1.84m) and the profit to £1.82m (£1.68m) before tax of £60.000. Dividends are shown to be 1.7p (1.65p), the net interim dividend is held at 0.75p.

Barclays S.A. bank to be restructured

longer term these operations will be split into three new divisions. "There is a lot of change coming," the spokesman said.

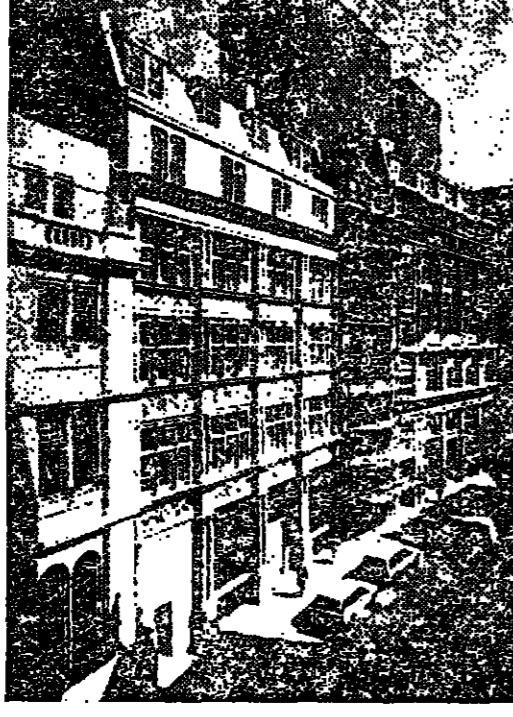
Barclays National has appointed two senior general managers, for the first time, one of whom will take charge of the bank's personnel, finance and administration departments. The other will concentrate on retail banking while Mr Swart will have responsibility for corporate business.

The proposed reorganisation is the latest move in Barclays National's efforts to shed its conservative image and tighten control of its sprawling network—the group has around 1,100 retail outlets and employs 24,000 people.

Moves to rejuvenate the group earlier this year were interrupted by the sudden resignation of the previous managing director, Mr Bob Aldworth. Mr Waterson has seen his role as a caretaker until Mr Ball moves in.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

**RICHARDSON-VICKS
OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.**

(Formerly Richardson-Merrill Overseas Finance N.V.)

83 1/4% Guaranteed Debentures Due December 15, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of December 15, 1970 providing for the above Debentures, a principal amount of said Debentures have been selected for redemption on December 15, 1983 through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest thereon to date, as follows:

OUTSTANDING DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH OF PREFIX "M" BEARING THE DISTINCTIVE NUMBERS ENDING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TWO DIGITS:

06 10 14 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80 84 88 92 96

ALSO OUTSTANDING DEBENTURES OF PREFIX "M" BEARING THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

7 760 4060 6660 7260 7860 9460 10070 14260 15360 17760 18260
2260 3260 4220 6220 7220 8220 9420 10420 12420 14420 16420 18260

On December 15, 1983, the Debentures designated above will become due and payable in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debt. Said Debentures will be paid upon presentation and surrender thereof with a certificate appended thereto made out to the holder in blank, in the opinion of the sole citizen(s) at the office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, N.Y. 10015, or (s) at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London, Paris and Zurich; Credit Foncier de l'Industrie S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Bank Mees & Hope N.V. in Amsterdam; and Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg in Luxembourg. Payments at the offices referred to in (s) above will be made by check drawn on a bank in New York City or by transfer to a dollar account maintained by the payee in the United States of America.

Coupons due December 15, 1983 should be deposited and collected in the usual manner.

On and after December 15, 1983 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures herein designated for redemption.

RICHARDSON-VICKS OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.

Dated: November 15, 1983

NOTICE
The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:

25-3235 5986 15735 15741

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You certainly don't get anywhere near the top of the line in business jets.

But you can get there. And for about the same investment.

Instead of looking at a new medium jet, look at one of the good used Gulfstream IIs currently available from us.

Remember, the Gulfstream II is the airplane that originally set the standards for superiority in business jets in terms of total performance, speed, range, cabin size, engine reliability and systems dependability.

And in today's market, you can get all that superiority for an investment that represents a real value. What's more, history suggests that it will be an investment that will retain much of its value over a long period of time.

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- Long range capabilities with optimum performance versatility. You can go anywhere your business takes you, even overseas. And even though the Gulfstream II is a big airplane, it can operate into and out of smaller airports, just like those smaller medium jets.

- More comfort in a big, spacious cabin. With over six feet of stand-up headroom and a flat floor the entire 39-foot length of the cabin, most Gulfstream IIs are outfitted for 12, 14, or more passengers, and have every amenity for superlative comfort and convenience, including a full-size galley, a full-size lavatory/dressing room, and a pressurized baggage compartment that is accessible in flight. (No wonder executives have always preferred the Gulfstream-size cabin.)

- More comfort in a big, spacious cabin. With over six feet of stand-up headroom and a flat floor the entire 39-foot length of the cabin, most Gulfstream IIs are outfitted for 12, 14, or more passengers, and have every amenity for superlative comfort and convenience, including a full-size galley, a full-size lavatory/dressing room, and a pressurized baggage compartment that is accessible in flight. (No wonder executives have always preferred the Gulfstream-size cabin.)

* Around-the-clock service and support from the people who know Gulfstreams the best. It's available from the Gulfstream Service Center in Savannah, Georgia, which provides unequalled "one-stop" convenience for every Gulfstream operator.

There are many other advantages a Gulfstream II has over any medium jet, of course. Once you know them all, we think you'll come around to our point of view: a good used Gulfstream II purchased from us can be a better investment for you than a new medium jet.

To prove our point, let us show one of the Gulfstream IIs described in the box below. We've inspected each one, know its service history and maintenance records, and are confident of its excellent condition.

These outstanding Gulfstream IIs are now available from Gulfstream Aerospace:

Serial Number 15: 7265 hours on airframe, engines time to overhaul about 2500 hours. Dual Collins avionics, Bendix radar, Litton INS. Has 14-passenger interior designed in off-white with red leather trim and brown carpeting. Exterior is white with blue and yellow trim. Aircraft 72-month inspection compiled in April 1981. Has 90-day factory warranty.

Serial Number 102: 6338 hours on airframe, both engines with zero hours since overhaul. Well equipped with dual Collins avionics, dual Delco INS, many extras. 11-passenger interior refurbished June 1983 in blue and white with leather seats, light oak woodwork throughout. Has all Gulfstream-style amenities. New exterior paint scheme is beige and tan with white striping. Has 90-day factory warranty.

Serial Number 204: Single-owner aircraft in excellent condition, with less than 1400 hours on airframe and engines. Fully equipped for international operations with triple long-range navigation system (dual Delco INS and Global VLS), full complement of Collins avionics. Interior is compartmentalized for 7 passengers in forward section, 5 in aft, with television monitor in each, and handsomely finished in maroon and tan.

These aircraft are offered exclusively by Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and are subject to prior sale.

For all the details about these specific aircraft, or more general information about the Gulfstream II, call or write Jack Norton, our Director of Used Aircraft Marketing.

His number: (912) 964-3233.

His address: Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, P.O. Box 2206, Savannah, Georgia 31402. Telex: 30470.

Gulfstream Aerospace

جذب العمل

A copy of this advertisement and of the prospectus referred to in it have been delivered to the Register of Companies for registration.

SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE

SOCIETE ANONYME - REGISTERED OFFICE: RUE ROYALE 30, 1000 BRUSSELS
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THE NEW AVF SHARES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR DIVIDENDS ACCRUEING WITH EFFECT FROM 1st JANUARY 1984

THESE SHARES WILL BENEFIT FROM THE TAX ADVANTAGES PRESCRIBED BY ROYAL DECREE No. 15 OF 26 MARCH 1982 AS AMENDED BY ROYAL DECREE No. 150 OF 30th DECEMBER 1982 DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE SUBSCRIPTION OR PURCHASE OF SHARES IN BELGIAN COMPANIES.

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE THROUGH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FROM WHOM COPIES OF THE NEW ISSUE PROSPECTUS MAY BE OBTAINED

- SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE
- BANQUE BELGO-ZAIRENNE (BELGOLOISE)
- BANQUE BRUXELLES LAMBERT
- KREDIETBANK
- BANQUE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS
- BANQUE NAGELMACKERS
- BANQUE DEGROOF

APPLICATION MAY ALSO BE MADE TO THE BANKS LISTED ABOVE THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS REPRESENTED BY COUPON No. 11 DETACHED ON THE NEW ISSUE PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATE WILL BE QUOTED ON THE BRUSSELS AND BRUSSELS STOCK EXCHANGES.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE FOR AN OFFICIAL LISTING FOR THE NEW SHARES ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES MENTIONED ABOVE.

THE NOTICE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE COORDINATED LAWS ON COMMERCIAL COMPANIES HAS BEEN DEPOSITED AT THE REGISTRY OF THE BRUSSELS COMMERCIAL COURT ON 26 OCTOBER 1982

THE SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE — AN AGENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THE SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE WAS FOUNDED IN BRUSSELS IN 1922 AS A VEHICLE FOR INVESTMENT IN A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE COMPANIES BOTH IN BELGIUM AND OVERSEAS.
ITS INTERESTS RANGE FROM NON-FERROUS METALS TO ENERGY, AND INCLUDE BANKING AND FINANCE, DIAMONDS, STRUCTURAL MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, CHEMICALS, BUILDING, SHIPPING AND INSURANCE...

APPOINTMENTS

INTERNATIONAL

Changes at Tiger Oats

• Mr Tony Norton will take over as chairman of TIGER OATS AND NATIONAL MILLING COMPANY, one of South Africa's two major food groups, on the retirement of the present chairman Mr Rudi Franken next September. The Franken family were the largest individual shareholders in Tiger Oats before its acquisition last year by Barlow Rand, mining and industrial conglomerate. Mr Norton previously headed Barlow's sugar interest. Mr Robbie Williams, another Barlow Rand executive, will replace Mr Norton as executive vice-chairman of Tiger Oats. Mr Franken, who is widely recognised as the architect and builder of the group, will become life director.

• Mr James J. Hayden, vice-president of REXNORD, has been appointed president of its electronic products division based in Milwaukee. He will also continue as a vice-president. Mr Hayden joined Rexnord in 1974 as assistant treasurer. Mr John E. Sprout has been named president of ENVIREX INC., a Rexnord company located in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He was an executive vice-president and general manager.

• Several employees have received new responsibilities at ASHLAND COAL INC. Mr Harold E. Sergeant has been promoted to senior vice-president and controller, and Mr Charles R. Beard has been elected a senior vice-president in the operations division.

• His responsibilities will include

market planning for the whole international market place, excluding the U.S. and the UK, embracing sales and distribution channels, product marketing, promotional activities and advertising.

• AMERICAN GENERAL CORP has elected the following executive officers: Mr F. Max Schutte has been promoted to executive vice-president with responsibility for administrative operations. He was also named a member of American General's investment and senior operating committees. He succeeds executive vice-president Mr William B. Pardee, who has been named head of the operations division with responsibility for coordination and integration between the parent company and its network of 24 operating subsidiaries. Mr William C. Phelps has been named to the new post of senior vice-president public affairs. He joined American General early in 1981 as senior vice-president and general counsel.

• Joseph H. Mansfield has been promoted to senior vice-president and controller, and Mr Charles R. Beard has been elected a senior vice-president in the operations division.

• DIGITAL MICROSYSTEMS INC., the Californian-based subsidiary of the UK-based Mr Alfred (Fred) E. Russell, as director of international sales. He was with Osborne Computer Corp, where he was responsible for launching the company's international sales programme and setting up a distribution network.

His responsibilities will include

UNITED KINGDOM

Finance chief for Lloyds Bank

Mr John Rees, general manager (group finance), has been appointed group chief financial officer of LLOYD'S BANK. This is a new appointment effective from January 1. Reporting to the group chief executive, Mr Rees will be a member of the senior management team with special responsibility for the development of the group's financial strategy and for the finance and accounting functions of the group worldwide. Mr Leen Wilkens, an assistant general manager, has been appointed general manager (finance) for the UK bank and

its domestic subsidiaries.

On January 1 Mr J. A. Wiseheart, chief manager, Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia and Mr J. R. E. Lamb will become chairman and secretary respectively of THE ASSOCIATED AUSTRALASIAN BANKS in London.

• DAVID DIXON GROUP has appointed chairman Mr Maurice G. Cowan, a partner in a firm of Leeds solicitors, to the board as non-executive director.

Mr A. P. Waterkeyn has been appointed to the board of MORE OFFERALL. He has been with the group 21 years and is director general of the wholly-owned French subsidiary, More Offeall S.A., responsible for operations in both France and Belgium.

• JOHN POLAND & CO. has appointed Mr Geoffrey Perry as an additional director.

HADEN MAINTENANCE has appointed Mr J. G. Jennings as sales and marketing director UK.

ASSURANCES GENERALES DE FRANCE has appointed Mr Ian Middlemiss as marine underwriter for the London branch. Mr Middlemiss retires on December 31 and thereafter will act as consultant to AGF.

• ELOPAK, manufacturer of milk cartons and dairy equipment, has appointed Mr. Chris Simpson, as director, finance operations. For the last two years he has been company secretary and retains responsibility for administrative matters. He has also been appointed a director of Elopak Leasing.

monitor legislative developments regarding military and other state taxation issues. Mr Looram is a founding member of the Committee of the Unitary Tax, an organisation of international firms devoted to initiating reforms in the unitary method of taxation.

• Mr Richard E. Speid has joined HOKE INC. as general manager and executive vice-president of the international manufacturer of precision fluid control components.

• Mr Howard Dingman has been elected a senior vice-president of LITTON INDUSTRIES. Mr Dingman, who heads Litton's geophysical services operations and is president of its Western Geophysical division, Houston, was a corporate vice-president.

• HILL & DELAMAIN has appointed Mr Stephen Ho to the board of Hill and Delamain (Hong Kong). Mr Ho has been with Hill and Delamain (Hong Kong) since the formation of the company in 1972, initially as export manager and later as general manager. Hill and Delamain (Hong Kong) is part of the United Transport Group.

• At AVON PRODUCTS INC., Mr David W. Mitchell will resign as chairman on January 1. He will be succeeded by Mr Hicks E. Waldron who remains president and chief executive officer. Mr Mitchell will remain a member of the board.

• Mr F. W. G. Kremlik, director of public switching development for Philips' Telecommunications Industries has been appointed vice-president-marketing of AT&T AND PHILIPS' TELECOMMUNICATIONS, the company recently formed by American Telephone and Telegraph and Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken of the Netherlands. On December 1, Mr F. W. Kool has been appointed director of Philips Nederland.

Senior posts at MEPC

• MEPC has made the following appointments from December 1: Mr N. A. S. (Mike) Kerr, managing director of MEPC, has been appointed to take on responsibility for MEPC's other European operations. In France and Belgium, Mr R. M. D. (Glenys) Greene is appointed managing director, MEPC Ireland.

• MELLON BANK has transferred the management responsibilities for its operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa from its headquarters in Pittsburgh to London. Mr Robert B. Marshall, senior vice-president, is in charge of Mellon's activities in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Mr John H. Miles, vice-president, has been appointed general manager of Mellon's operations in the British Isles. Mr Joseph W. Amy, vice-president, has been placed in charge of business development for the London branch with responsibility for all corporate and financial institutions, conducting business in the British Isles, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Scandinavia, Central Europe, Russia, and the Nordic countries.

• At AVON PRODUCTS INC., Mr David W. Mitchell will resign as chairman on January 1. He will be succeeded by Mr Hicks E. Waldron who remains president and chief executive officer. Mr Mitchell will remain a member of the board.

• At THE R. H. MORLEY GROUP, Mr Colin Hall, currently director of the group's subsidiary companies, as group sales director on the main board.

• DAVID DIXON GROUP has appointed chairman Mr Maurice G. Cowan, a partner in a firm of Leeds solicitors, to the board as non-executive director.

Mr Harry Nicholls, dean of the faculty of management and head of the management centre at Aston University, has been appointed chief executive of ASTON SCIENCE PARK. The appointment was made by Birmingham Technology—a partnership between Birmingham City Council, Lloyds Bank and the University—which is the operating company for the science park.

• ASSURANCES GENERALES DE FRANCE has appointed Mr Ian Middlemiss as marine underwriter for the London branch.

Mr Middlemiss retires on December 31 and thereafter will act as consultant to AGF.

• ELOPAK, manufacturer of milk cartons and dairy equipment, has appointed Mr. Chris Simpson, as director, finance operations. For the last two years he has been company secretary and retains responsibility for administrative matters. He has also been appointed a director of Elopak Leasing.

• Mr Michael Shanks has been appointed chairman of HUGEN GROUP, British company formed to take over the international retail systems business of AB Electrolux after the management buy-out. Mr David C. Price, former chief executive, based at the London headquarters, and Mr Goran Skyrte is the deputy group chief executive. Other appointments to the board are Mr Leslie Costfield, deputy chairman, and Mr Nick Dow.

General manager at Bank of Scotland

Mr Thomas Bennie, divisional general manager, international division of the BANK OF SCOTLAND has been appointed a joint general manager, which will involve responsibility for all banking services, central banking services, personal financial services and marketing, development and public affairs, from February 1. He succeeds Mr John F. Wilson, who retires on May 31.

Mr Peter A. Hart, an assistant general manager, international division has been appointed divisional general manager, from February 1 in succession to Mr Bennie.

Mr David Bevell becomes director of sales UK/Ireland, W. M. TEACHER & SONS. Mr Michael Cowan is appointed the director of the brewing and bottling plant at Craigpark, Glasgow, and Mr Huw Evans becomes director of marketing UK/EEC. These are all promotions.

Mr Michael Shanks has been appointed chairman of HUGEN GROUP, British company formed to take over the international retail systems business of AB Electrolux after the management buy-out. Mr David C. Price, former chief executive, based at the London headquarters, and Mr Goran Skyrte is the deputy group chief executive. Other appointments to the board are Mr Leslie Costfield, deputy chairman, and Mr Nick Dow.

Each gesture of his is an act of technical perfection

He is a master of technique. The pantomime portrays his ideas, conceptions and observations in an absolutely convincing manner, without big words.

Great technical ability is also necessary when new ideas and discoveries are to be realized for higher performance, greater safety, more independence or for new methods of workmanship.

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Technology that is convincing without big words.

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The FT / British Venture Capital Association

Venture Capital Financial Forum

Hotel Inter. Continental, London 1 & 2 December, 1983

The Forum

This is not another Venture Capital conference, but a unique opportunity to hear and meet the executives and entrepreneurs from Britain's leading venture backed companies.

Many of these companies will be raising additional finance privately or are seeking a public quotation for their shares on the AIM or on the full stock market in the foreseeable future.

Format

The leading executives of over 20 venture backed companies will address this forum during morning sessions and will be available for private meetings in the afternoons.

Sponsors

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Who Should Attend

Senior executives from financial institutions with responsibility for investment management and with existing or potential interest in Venture Capital, in particular: insurance companies, investment trusts, merchant banks, pension funds, stockbrokers, unit trusts, other institutional investors and, of course, venture capitalists. Industrial companies keen to develop their involvement in Venture Capital will also find the conference valuable.

Venture Capital Forum

To: Financial Times Limited, Corporate Events Department, 200 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4EE, Tel: 01 580 4200, Fax: 01 580 4201.

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Tuesday November 15, 1983

International health care and hospital construction

IN WORLD health care the early 1980s have been significant for two main developments. In the developing world the launch of the World Health Organisation's "Health for All by the Year 2000" campaign, and in richer countries the stepping up of efforts aimed at cost containment and obtaining value for money.

The two developments reflect an ever-growing demand for health care by rich and poor alike and the growing realisation that such provision is increasingly expensive. In OECD countries there is, indeed, an in-built tendency for health spending to run ahead of increases in national wealth because of an ageing population structure and the increased complexity of medical technology.

Poorer countries are by contrast struggling to provide basic services for their larger populations, and in many cases to prevent endemic diseases, against a background of falling prices for their raw materials and inflationary increases in the cost of the goods they buy.

In 1981, health care spending worldwide was estimated to be around \$415bn — or almost as much as the UK's gross national product—with the money going on a range of facilities and services from hospitals and clinics to pharmaceuticals, and management consultancy orders.

This spending, the vast bulk of it in the developed world, had been building up throughout the 1960s and 1970s. By the late 1970s the industrialised countries were spending around 8 per cent of GNP on health care—double the figure for the 1950s. Currently Sweden, West Germany and the U.S. spend between 9 per cent and 10.5 per cent of GNP on health care.

One of the consequences of this growth in health's call on national resources, as Professor Brian Abel-Smith of the

While wealthier nations are looking for ways of cutting the cost of medical equipment, hospital building and drugs, much of the Third World is still seeking to build up basic medical services

Sorting out the priorities

By GARETH GRIFFITHS

London School of Economics points out, is that people in many industrialised countries are not working for wages out of the year or more simply to pay for their health care.

"It is not surprising therefore that more and more people are asking whether they are getting their money's worth from this vast expenditure," he notes.

The rise in health care costs has meant in the OECD a shift from private sector to public funding of health care, with the result that governments, too, are becoming more concerned with the control of costs.

In 1980 the public sector accounted for 50 per cent of costs but by 1980 this had risen to an OECD average of 77 per cent.

Yet health is only one of a number of services competing for the public purse, alongside defence, housing, education, and transport, to name a few. Health ministries throughout Europe and in the U.S. have, therefore, been seeking to develop new ways of measuring

economic difficulty, the pattern will be more diverse.

Because of the strong pressure for a continued expansion within the health care system, national expenditure will continue to rise in countries where the controls over health care are weak or fragmented. National expenditures may well fall relative to GNP when controls are tight, depending on other perceived priorities."

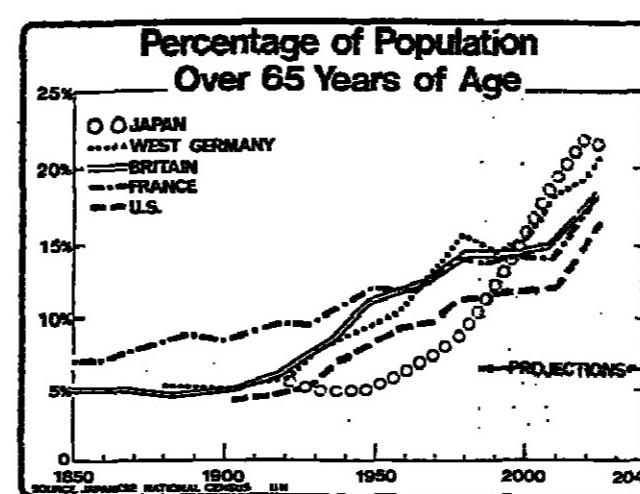
As well as seeking to control costs, however, governments throughout the developed world have also been re-examining methods of raising finance, and this has become a live political as well as economic issue throughout Europe and in the U.S.

In most of the rest of the world the aim much more simply in the words of the "Health for All by the Year 2000" campaign launched by the World Health Organisation is "the attainment by all people of a (health) level permitting them to lead socially and economically productive lives."

Health statistics for the developing world do indeed make depressing reading. The statistical norm for anyone living in a low income country is that if they survive childhood they can expect to spend a quarter of their life expectancy of 50 years, in a disabled state.

The WHO hopes to achieve improvements by a shift in health care resources toward primary health, in other words, clean water supplies, increasing immunisation programmes, emphasising the need for a limited list of essential and inexpensive drugs, training health workers, and shifting the balance of health care away from a small urban elite.

The campaign marks a more assertive style by WHO under its director-general Dr Halfdan Mahler. WHO achieved the elimination of smallpox from the planet in 1980, although its



The good health league

	Health Index* quality ranking	% GDP spent on health	% of health finance from public sector
Sweden	(1) 0.73	8.5%	91.6%
Netherlands	(2) 0.79	8.1%	71.1%
Switzerland	(3) 0.84	6.9%	66.5%
Australia	(4) 0.83	2.5%	52.6%
Canada	(5) 1.02	7.3%	64.4%
France	(6) 1.06	7.1%	73.4%
Italy	(7) 1.10	7.9%	76.0%
U.S.	(8) 1.11	8.0%	91.3%
West Germany	(10) 1.23	9.4%	77.1%

* Index based upon composite of health indicators in 1975, such as infant mortality, per capita mortality and premature death. Source: Health and Wealth; Robert Maxwell (Lexington Books)

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The drug industry	IV
Battle over cost containment	IV

malaria campaigns have run into problems. The main challenge now facing WHO is to keep down the so-called cholera pandemic, one of the great disease cycles of history.

This started in 1958 and unlike the 1826-37 pandemic which spread throughout Europe, North America, parts of Asia and Africa, its ravages have been limited. This year, nevertheless, more than 30,000 cases of cholera have already been reported.

In the developing world relatively small improvements costing modest sums can make a major difference. In the developed world the answers to the very different problems are unlikely to be so easy. In particular it remains unclear what the correlation is between the size of expenditure on health provision and the health status of a country's population.

To take just one example, it is not self-evident the case that the population of the U.S. with its high level of spending on health is significantly healthier than that of the UK which is now one of the lowest OECD spenders.

As the pressures on governments to keep down the tax burden of health expenditure increase, issues of this sort are likely to be the constant theme of debate.

Big worldwide market for equipment

National pressures in the markets supplied are also making the salesman's task more difficult. Saudi Arabia, for example, is now insisting that companies engaged in work on the country should be 100 per cent locally-owned—a move likely to result in an increase in joint ventures. Other Middle East countries are beginning to turn away from awarding turnkey contracts in a bid to stimulate local supply.

Britain itself has traditionally run a substantial surplus in medical equipment exports though in 1982 the gap between exports at \$348m and imports and narrowed to \$242m. (This compares with pharmaceutical exports of \$992m and imports of £377m in the same year.)

Understatement

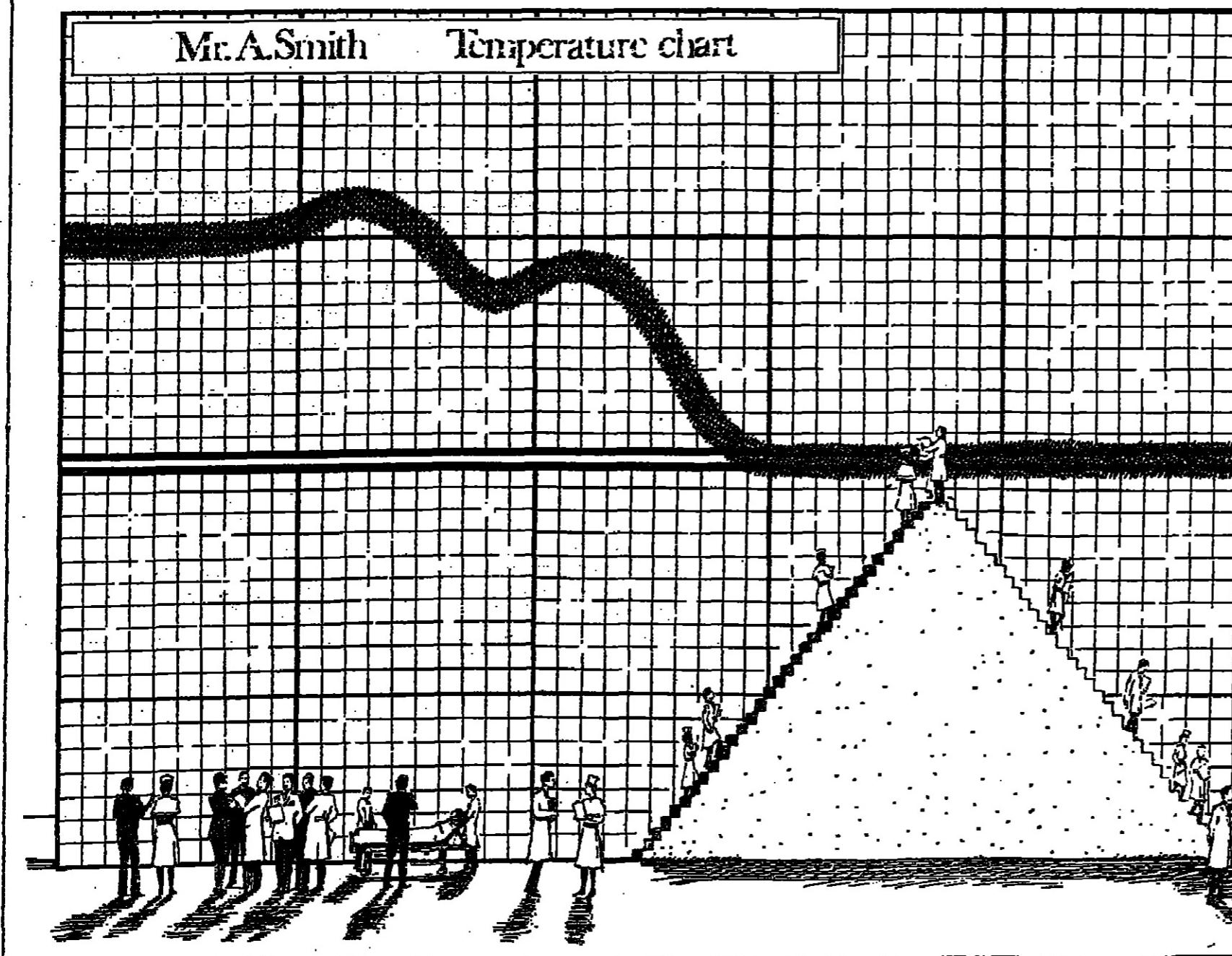
This may represent an understatement of the actual total for medical equipment as sales also figure under different headings, and the real value of exports could be as high as £600m. Mr David Pollington, director general of the British Health Care Council, claims:

Nevertheless, medical equipment exports—in the UK's case mainly to the U.S., West Germany, France, Ireland and Saudi Arabia—appear to have remained stagnant while imports are increasing rapidly.

What is perhaps more serious is that Britain's industry, which consists in the main of small companies employing fewer than 100 people, is losing out to the U.S., West Germany and the Netherlands in areas of advanced technology. Many UK companies are now trying, however, to move upmarket into the provision of more highly valued goods and services.

To maintain a patient's health, you have to understand more than one graph.

Mr A. Smith Temperature chart



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19-23 February 1984

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More package deals in hospital building

CONSTRUCTION times in foreign hospital building have been halved over the past few years. The time and cost savings achieved by this development however, owe much less to advances in building technology than to the tough attitude of hospital buyers in the Middle East and Asia and, particularly, to the concept of the turnkey hospital development.

In the developed countries of Northern Europe, North America and Japan, where most of the world's international hospital builders come from, the greater use of system builds and sophisticated construction techniques has shaved months off accepted construction times.

Ahead however, increased competition, perceptive client purchasing and the demand for production of hospitals as an all-inclusive package have cut standard construction times by years.

This trend has in turn forced foreign contractors, architects and consultants to specialise not simply in the building of hospitals, but also in their design and equipping. It has produced a new generation of specialists able not only to produce a hospital with everything from a fully-equipped operating theatre to bed linen, but also capable of advising clients on the type of hospital required to meet existing and future needs.

Although this is a fairly recent development, the principles of such construction are well established. In 1959 the British engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel was commissioned to produce a 1,000-bed hospital at Canakkale, in the Dardanelles, to house British wounded in the Crimean War.

Brunel not only designed a specialised timber hospital complex but also its portable washbasins, invalid beds and lavatory basins. Today's hospital project manager is no longer required to design these things, but he is frequently required to procure them for the client, along with all other medical and service equipment as part of a turnkey project.

Even without considerations of equipment supply, hospitals present a unique set of problems for the designer and consultant because of the different lifetimes of the structure and the equipment it houses. The hospital structure will have a lifetime of up to 50 years and its conventional services, boilers, air conditioning and so on, a span of 10 to 20 years.

There still have to be some limits to change, however. If there are complaints about the turnkey approach to hospital building, it is that the original concept is changed too frequently and that the strict time limits set on design and construction can only be met where an approval is decided

upon end left until construction is finished.

One current Middle East turnkey project, involving Ove Arup & Partners and the specialist British health service consultants Llewelyn-Davies Weeks, can be taken as typical of the tight time limits imposed. This project, the Sharjah general hospital in the United Arab Emirates is a 350-bed medium sized hospital comprising some 30,000 sq m in a four-storey ward block and a two-storey administration and outpatients' block.

In turnkey projects this design for obsolescence becomes a high priority factor, with the project manager bearing ultimate responsibility for the adequate functioning of a hospital which could be very different next year from the one completed this.

To meet this demand, specialised consultants have developed what one British specialist group, Ove Arup and Partners, calls the "loose-fit" concept of hospital construction—the design of a "loose" building envelope which can be readily extended to accommodate a wide variety of functions, rather than a finite envelope which fits a prescribed function exactly.

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Model of a 500-bed hospital in Oman which George Wimpey International will design, construct and equip under a £147m turnkey contract

school, ten hospitals and 50 clinics.

Most

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INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE III

Health-related indicators

	Population per Physician 1980	Daily per capita calorie supply 1980
	Population per Nursing person 1980	
Low-income economies	12,222	5,785
China and India	6,977	2,928
Other low-income	37,127	15,246
Kampuchea, Dem.	25,440	(4,918)
Bhutan	—	2,953
Lee, PDR	54,140	(20,968) (4,380) (3,040) 1,829
Chad	72,190	(47,530) (5,780) (3,850) 1,768
Bangladesh	—	(10,940)
Ethiopia	100,470	(58,940) (14,920) (5,440) 1,735
Nepal	—	(15,660)
Eritrea	—	(5,560) (6,750) 2,174
Afghanistan	28,700	(15,700) (5,560) (25,980) 1,775
Mali	64,130	(32,190) (5,710) (3,850) 1,871
Malawi	25,220	(40,950) (12,940) (5,820) 2,155
Zaire	79,620	(14,780) (5,510) (1,920) 1,850
Uganda	15,050	(26,510) (10,930) (4,180) 1,785
Burundi	(96,570)	(45,020) (4,530) 6,188 2,114
Upper Volta	81,650	(45,510) 4,990 4,950 1,791
Rwanda	(142,290)	31,510 (11,620) 9,840 2,364
India	(4,850)	(3,440) (10,980) (5,280) 1,888
Somalia	38,570	14,290 4,919 2,338 1,852
Tanzania	18,220	(17,980) (11,390) (2,980) 2,051
Vietnam	—	2,830
China	8,230	(1,920) (4,020) (2,980) 2,077
Guinea	26,900	(36,630) (2,280) (2,490) 2,071
Haiti	(9,220)	(2,200) (4,420) (2,490) 1,939
Sri Lanka	4,490	7,730 (4,170) 2,420 2,233
Benin	22,030	17,850 (2,700) 1,670 2,222
Central African Rep.	49,616	(27,050) (2,280) (1,760) 2,188
Sierra Leone	20,420	(18,280) 2,360 (2,120) 2,053

	Daily per capita calorie supply 1980	Population per Physician 1980	Daily per capita calorie supply 1980	Population per Nursing person 1980	Daily per capita calorie supply 1980
Madagascar	5,900 (18,170) (3,110) (3,660) 2,466	—	—	—	—
Niger	82,170 (35,790) (8,460) (4,650) 2,227	—	—	—	—
Pakistan	5,400 3,480 14,960 5,820 2,124	—	—	—	—
Mozambique	20,290 33,110 (4,720) 5,600 2,147	—	—	—	—
Sudan	33,420 5,800 (3,030) 1,418 2,447	—	—	—	—
Togo	47,060 (18,100) (3,340) (1,430) 2,101	—	—	—	—
Ghana	21,500 (7,530) (5,430) (780) 2,054	—	—	—	—
Middle-income economies	12,011 5,322 3,689 1,769 2,579	—	—	—	—
Oil exporters	29,989 6,706 4,118 1,978 2,488	—	—	—	—
Oil importers	6,681 4,174 3,685 1,580 2,644	—	—	—	—
Lower middle-income	27,307 7,751 4,925 2,261 2,476	—	—	—	—
Kenya	10,690 (10,500) (2,270) (550) 2,078	—	—	—	—
Senegal	24,989 (13,800) 2,340 (1,400) 2,006	—	—	—	—
Mauritania	49,420 (14,350) (5,430) (2,080) 1,941	—	—	—	—
Yemen, Arab Rep.	12,090 11,670 4,580 2,712	—	—	—	—
Yemen, PDR	13,290 7,390 850 2,122	—	—	—	—
Indonesia	48,780 (11,530) (4,510) (2,300) 2,215	—	—	—	—
Bolivia	2,520 (18,100) (6,540) (2,080) 2,444	—	—	—	—
Honduras	2,520 1,585 2,078 1,220 2,171	—	—	—	—
Zambia	9,540 (7,570) 9,820 (1,730) 2,051	—	—	—	—
Egypt	2,550 970 (1,530) 1,508 2,051	—	—	—	—
El Salvador	5,260 3,040 (870) 2,931	—	—	—	—
Thailand	7,950 (7,180) (4,860) (2,420) 2,308	—	—	—	—
Philippines	6,940 9,790 6,900 2,275	—	—	—	—
Angola	14,910 (9,650) 2,122	—	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	23,840 (13,590) 2,450 (960) 2,164	—	—	—	—
Morocco	9,410 11,200 (1,820) 2,250 2,135	—	—	—	—
Nicaragua	2,690 1,890 1,250 550 2,135	—	—	—	—
Nigeria	7,720 (12,570) (4,040) (2,100) 2,095	—	—	—	—
Zimbabwe	4,790 5,820 4,000 (1,920) 2,222	—	—	—	—
Cameroun	(42,110) (12,570) (5,150) (2,280) 2,051	—	—	—	—
Cuba	1,060 700 (950) (260) 2,071	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	16,720 (5,510) (1,300) (790) 2,277	—	—	—	—
Guatemala	(4,420) (5,580) (9,040) (1,820) 2,045	—	—	—	—
Peru	1,910 (1,390) 2,210 (690) 2,057	—	—	—	—
Upper middle-income	2,605 1,689 2,678 1,010 2,724	—	—	—	—
Korea, Rep. of	3,540 1,690 (2,350) 380 2,957	—	—	—	—
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	4,050 (2,320) 8,090 2,529 2,018	—	—	—	—
Iraq	(5,270) 1,790 (3,030) 2,149 2,677	—	—	—	—
Malaysia	7,020 (7,910) (1,790) (940) 2,957	—	—	—	—
Panama	2,723 (980) 3,460 (420) 2,163	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	9,000 (540) 2,625 2,056	—	—	—	—
Belgium	780 4,000 450 129 3,573	—	—	—	—
Finland	1,570 530 (176) 160 3,196	—	—	—	—
Australia	(750) 560 320 3,159	—	—	—	—
Canada	910 (550) (290) 50 3,625	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom	940 (650) (210) (140) 3,606	—	—	—	—
Japan	530 (780) (310) 2,012	—	—	—	—
Austria	550 400 (440) 230 3,573	—	—	—	—
Ireland	(950) 760 (190) 120 3,718	—	—	—	—
Spain	850 (160) 1,290 (330) 3,601	—	—	—	—
Italy	640 (310) (1,330) 320 3,623	—	—	—	—
New Zealand	850 679 139 3,685	—	—	—	—
Industrial market economies	1,210 520 270 340	—	—	—	—
Population per Physician 1980	816	554	474	183	3,433
Population per Nursing person 1980					
Daily per capita calorie supply 1980					

SEVEN YEARS ago Mr Robert McNamara, then president of the World Bank, coined the phrase "Health for All by the Year 2000". That phrase is now the aim of the World Health Organisation, the Geneva-based organisation with 157 member countries.

The thrust of the WHO strategy therefore, is to improve primary health care in the world's poorer countries. That means making sure people have adequate access to clean water. (Some 80 per cent of disease in the world is related to lack of safe water and one in three people in the developing world have no access to clean drinking water.)

Primary health care means improving access to trained health workers, not necessarily doctors. (At present half the people in the developing world never see a trained health worker.) The WHO wants immunisation against diseases increased and wider accessibility to drugs. (At present 70 per cent of the people in a typical low income country do not have regular access to even essential drugs.)

It is also calling on countries to boost spending on health to a minimum 5 per cent of gdp. By the year 2000 it wants life expectancy at birth to be a minimum of 60 years, and infant mortality rates to fall to a

rate of below 50 per 1,000 live births.

It is a formidable list given that most health care systems in the developing world still concentrate on providing facilities for a small urban elite. Prestige projects in capital cities absorb a disproportionate part of national health budgets, and there is a problem of producing expensively trained doctors who often migrate to OECD countries.

The WHO established in its present form in 1948 sees its role as co-ordinating and helping individual national programmes. Its budget for 1984 is \$520m of which the US contributes 10.15 per cent, the USSR 10.14 per cent, West Germany 8.3 per cent, France 6.38 per cent and the UK 4.5 per cent.

Dr Halfdan Mahler, the WHO's Director General, describes primary health care as "supporting people's faith in

their own ability to do something about the mess they are in."

"Nothing makes me more angry than people calling primary health care primitive medicine for primitive people. What they are really saying is let's continue giving good hospital-based medical care to 5 to 10 per cent of the population, and let that siphon off 50 per cent of the health budget."

The WHO solution is to develop a referral-based system of health care. This makes use of health workers, similar to the Chinese barefoot doctors, who work at village level, with more complicated problems being referred upwards. It also wants a list of 200 essential drugs. Its list consists almost entirely of drugs on which patients have run out so that cheaper generic substitutes are generally available.

The WHO does, however,

have its critics. Mr David Taylor, deputy director of the UK-based Office of Health Economics, financed by the pharmaceutical industry, and the author of *Medicines, Health and the Poor World*, is sceptical about some of the grandiose strategy documents contain-

"WHO works by trying to manipulate the various national health care systems in the developing world because it looks for more awareness of effective health care available," he observes. He points out that the trickle-down effect of health care provision simply has not worked in the developing world. He also argues that two of the central assumptions in the WHO strategy are open to some questioning.

These are:

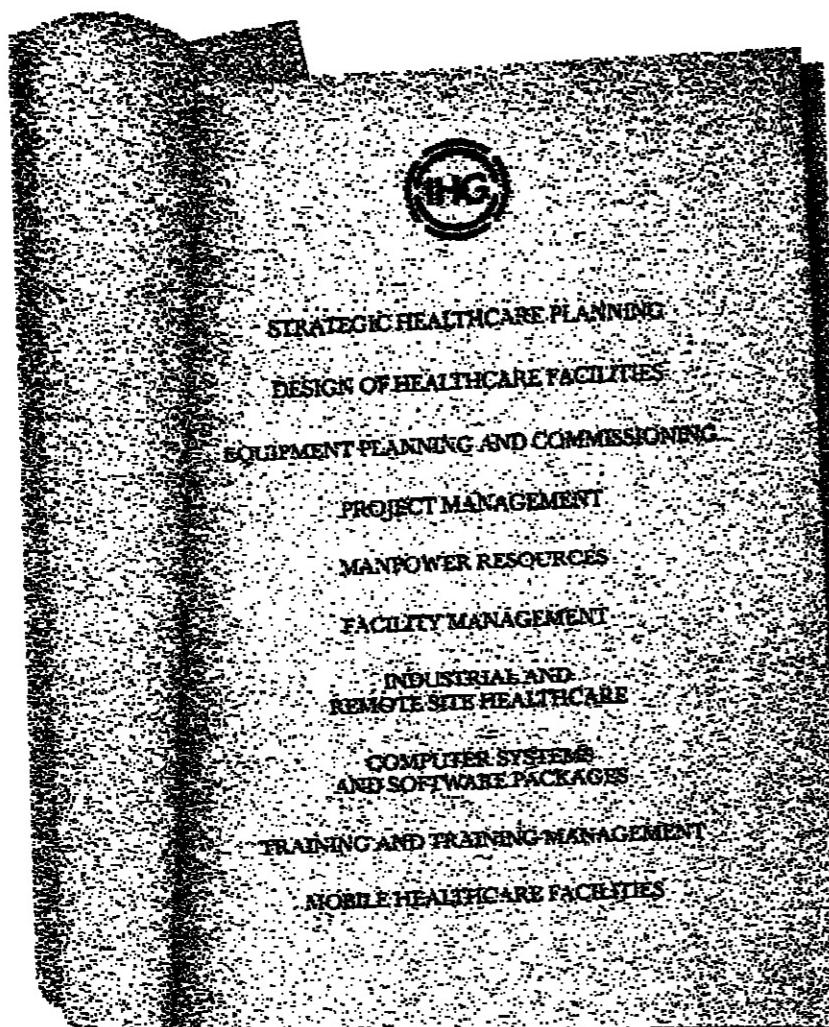
- The percentage of GNP spent on health. Health expenditure data varies from country to country making valid inter-

national comparisons difficult. In a WHO survey of 70 countries earlier this year 19 out of 25 least developed countries were shown to be spending less than 1.5 per cent of GNP on health and 48 out of the other 85 developing countries spent less than 1.5 per cent of GNP on health.

Mr Taylor argues that this

seriously underestimates the level of health spending in the developing world because it looks at public spending only and excludes expenditure by the private sector, the armed forces, missionary projects and industry.

"Central government outlays on health care, despite being widely quoted, are of extremely dubious value as guides to



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Henderson Global Healthcare Unit Trust.

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Signature(s) _____ Date FT 16/11

Henderson. The Investment Managers.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE IV

The lop-sided world of the drug industry

AS THE WORLD'S DEMAND for modern hospitals and medical equipment increases, so does its demand for safe, efficacious drugs.

In the last decade or so, the pharmaceutical industry's image as miracle-worker has been somewhat tarnished but the setbacks and controversies have only increased the industry's determination to provide more treatments for more diseases in more parts of the world.

To meet this challenge, the \$80bn-a-year pharmaceutical industry is becoming increasingly international in all areas of its business. Thus, research in new cephalosporins, a broad-spectrum antibiotic used mainly in hospitals, is actively under way in the U.S., Britain and Japan, as well, as in Sweden, West Germany and Switzerland.

Anti-cancer research is also a truly global project, with nearly every developed country hosting a cancer research institute to augment the work done by private researchers.

This expansion in research activity worldwide has led to a record number of licensing and joint-venture deals within the pharmaceutical industry. Last year, for example, nearly 400 companies from 29 different countries agreed to licensing deals for new products - up from just 186 companies in 1981.

Research

The amount of money being ploughed into research is also growing. According to Edinburgh stockbrokers, Wood, Mackenzie, in 1978 drug companies were spending about 10.3 per cent of their sales on research and development. Today that figure is close to 12 per cent.

Even so, the distribution of drugs worldwide is heavily lop-sided in favour of those countries which can afford to pay for them. According to United Nations statistics, over 80 per cent of the world's drug production is consumed in developed countries and less than 20 per cent in developing nations.

In fact, Dr Haldan Mahler, director general of the World Health Organisation said last year that the public health services of the 67 poorest developing countries, excluding China,

are spending less in total than the rich countries spend on tranquillisers.

In a recent paper on the European pharmaceutical industry, Dr George Teeling-Smith, director of the UK Office of Health Economics, and Mr Otto Nowotny argued that three specific actions should be considered by industrialised countries in order to change this pattern.

These proposed actions are:

- More research into tropical and other diseases prevalent in developing countries.
- Special price concessions to developing countries in order to make drugs available to as large a segment of the developing world as possible.
- Adequate drug prices in the industrialised countries to generate the funds required by the first two proposals.

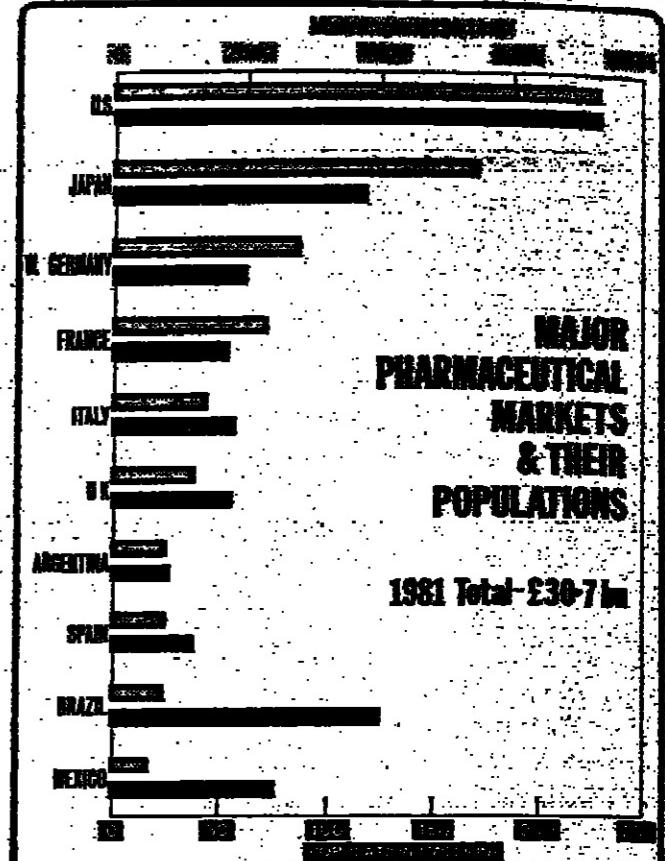
The third proposal strikes a sensitive chord with the drug industry and its critics. In the past few years, the drug industry in Europe and the U.S. has come under attack by charities like Oxfam and consumer groups for allegedly charging excessively high prices for its products.

The critics charge that drug companies are quick to bring out similar products in a given therapeutic area without necessarily providing any innovation in treatment. Senator Edward Kennedy of the U.S. described the results as a "race" in which the world has been flooded with a "myriad of competing drug products."

The World Health Organisation, in a controversial report published in 1981, stated that just over 200 active substances could adequately cover the health needs of the majority of the world's population. This figure of 200, they stated, compared to "the quite absurd figure" of 30,000 brands in some countries.

In their defence, drug companies point out that long regulatory procedures mean extended patent life for drugs, and hence the need to maximise profit while drugs are on patent. None the less, governments throughout Europe are seizing on this issue and many appear poised to regulate further drug prices in the months to come.

One area where the cost of a drug may actually hinder its own growth potential is in the cephalosporin market. The natural successors to penicillins, cephalexins are now one of the biggest drug markets in the world and a hotly competitive market.



These new drugs have been withdrawn or banned from entering the market because of side-effects problems over the last 12 months. Many European governments are now considering ways to strengthen their monitoring systems for side-effects on new drugs.

For the future, both the consumers and manufacturers are becoming increasingly hopeful about the benefits of genetic engineering for the world's health. Already, deals in the licensing of biotechnology products are proliferating. According to IMS Worldwide Pharmaceutical Marketshare, biotechnology agreements involved nearly 20 per cent of world-wide licensing agreements in 1981 - by 1982, that percentage had shot up to 50 per cent.

Many newly formed biotechnology venture firms have recently signed agreements with large drug companies for the commercialisation of their recombinant DNA products. The most active area of research are in new means of energy production, genetics and immunotherapy, prevention of disease as opposed to treatment and plant genetics and vaccines.

Researchers forecast that these innovations are still some 10 to 20 years away from chemists' shops. Until that time, the drug industry and its consumers face the challenging task of improving the world's health with the means at hand.

In Britain alone, some five researchers forecast that these innovations are still some 10 to 20 years away from chemists' shops. Until that time, the drug industry and its consumers face the challenging task of improving the world's health with the means at hand.

Carla Rapoport

Emphasis in many countries is on obtaining value for money.

Battle over cost containment

"NOW THAT people in so many highly industrialised countries are working four or more weeks out of the year simply to pay for their health care, it is not surprising that more and more are asking whether they are getting their money's worth from this vast expenditure."

The comment comes from Professor Brian Abel-Smith of the London School of Economics, and doyen of health economic commentators. He was summing up the results of a conference on improving cost effectiveness in health care held in Finland under the auspices of the International Social Association.

The problems of how to contain the cost of health care and improve efficiency in a sector where normal market rules do not apply are exercising the minds of health ministers and insurance company chiefs throughout the world. Health costs have been rising faster than general inflation and the percentage of national wealth devoted to health has been going up also.

Health care demand appears inevitable simply because the more that is provided, the greater become the expectations. An ageing population, caused partly by better health care, in turn demands more health care expenditure.

The result is that expenditure on health in the United States is now running at around 10.5 per cent of gross national product compared to 7.5 per cent in 1970. Wall Street analysts estimate this figure will be 12 per cent in 1990. France, West Germany and Sweden spend between 8 per cent and 10 per cent of GNP on health and the UK 5.5 per cent.

The arguments about health care cost revolve around three central areas of discussion.

• Is there a point at which health spending produces diminishing returns? The problem in any analysis are first that the international data is often not comparable and secondly that the marginal cost theory does not apply in health. Because life and death are often at stake there is no fixed limit beyond which patients will not be prepared to spend for health care, the only determinant being ability to pay. Doctors are also both suppliers and consumers in health economic equations.

ments in cost containment are in fact taking place. The Reagan Administration has started a five year reform of the Medicare scheme which in 1981 cost the Federal government \$44.8m and covered 26m old people and 3m disabled.

The thrust of the reform, started in October 1982, is to replace a retrospective reimbursement of the cost with a simple prospective payment based on a single rate per admission. What it means is that there will be a squeeze on the less efficient hospitals which will be unable to pass their higher costs on to the taxpayer.

At the same time the State of California has done a deal with individual hospitals providing service for patients.

Gareth Griffiths

A FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

JANUARY 24 1984

The Financial Times is proposing to publish a survey on Private Health Care in its issue of January 24 1984. The preliminary editorial synopsis is set out below.

INTRODUCTION After the rapid growth in recent years private medicine is now expanding at a slower rate. Government attitudes to this sector and the financial implications surrounding the National Health Service. Is the private health market heading for a shake-out as many people believe? An overview of the sector and an examination of the future trends.

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FINANCIAL TIMES
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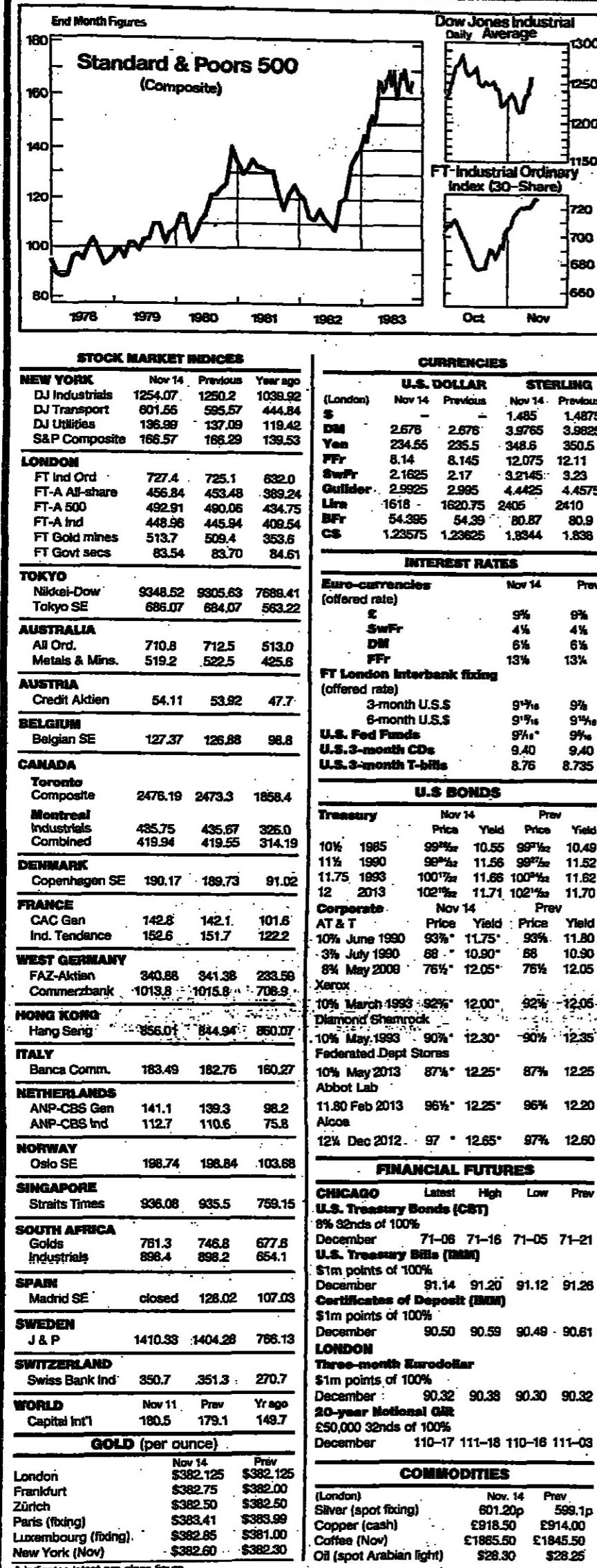
SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday November 15 1983

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KEY MARKET MONITORS



WALL STREET

Brazilian boost for the banks

On Wall Street the stock market tried to move forward again during the first half of the session, encouraged by a reported slackening of tensions surrounding the Latin American debt situation, writes Terry Byland in New York.

Bonds opened a shade below the best levels reached late on Thursday after successful completion of the treasury funding programme. But towards the end of the day, bond prices softened as the market awaited the announcement of last week's M1 money supply totals, and stock prices gave up most of their early gains.

The sharp fall in M1 announced after the stock market closed, helped bonds to recover their fall.

It was the leading stocks which attracted most of the interest in the initial upturn and it was these same stocks which suffered as the markets weakened towards the close.

The Dow Jones industrial average, above 12,61 briefly at midsession ended at 12,54.07, a net gain of 3.87. Turnover was moderate, with 87.5m shares traded and stocks with gains at 99% against 84% on the other side of the scale.

There was a significant upturn in the Nasdaq, where the index rose 2.38 to 279.51 and gains led losses by five to two.

Indications that the threat of an international banking crisis may be receding, as Congress moved closer to providing increased funding for the IMF, brought gains of 5% to 47% in Chase Manhattan, 5% to 33% in Citicorp and 5% to 21% in Continental Illinois.

The Dow Jones transportation average was boosted by gains in both rail and airline issues. United Airlines, ahead at 33% and American Airlines at 3%, put on 5% each. Burlington Northern found the buyers again and gained 5% to 105%.

Technology leaders were back in favour, led by IBM, 5% up to 127%; Honeywell 5% up to 131%; NCR 5% higher at 133%; and Digital Equipment 5% up at 51%.

Activity among the second liners was more erratic. Disclosure by J. C. Penney that it will not include the Adam computer in its Christmas catalogues of store sales left Coleco, maker of the Adam, 5% off at 21%. The market has long been alert to the problems raised for Coleco by delays in Adam shipments.

Commodore, still the strong spot in home computers despite recent press criticism, added 5% to 35%.

Among aerospace issues, McDonnell Douglas jumped 5% to 360% after the board confirmed that earnings could benefit from the decision to withdraw from building two civil aircraft models. General Electric at 556 gained 5% after revision of the terms for the deal with Broken Hill of Australia.

General Motors, 5% up at 577%, was the only motor stock to share in the market upturn. Confirmation of the cost to Chrysler earnings of the recent strike took 5% off the share price to 227% while Ford was 5% off at 554%.

Retailers slipped into the quarterly reporting season quietly with K-mart, number two among the chain stores, easing 5% to 338% after excellent third quarter figures which had been widely foreseen. Toys R Us, the biggest specialty store, added 5% to 41%.

Debt markets have a quiet week to look forward to after the heavy treasury funding of the past fortnight. The corpo-

rate list, too, is quiet and seasoned issues traded quietly while awaiting first dealings in the Citicorp \$150m issue. Municipal issues, however, retained the firm tone which followed last week's local elections which focused around spending plans.

In the government securities market, Treasury bills were steady, with the three-month bill adding two basis points to a discount of 8.75 per cent and the six-months a few basis points the other way at 8.88 per cent.

The longer end saw some profit-taking at first but the 2013 long bond later traded up to 102 1/2, only 1/2 below Thursday's final quotations.

TOKYO

Chemicals find the formula

A STRONG advance in Tokyo, in the wake of Wall Street's pre-weekend performance, was led by the chemicals and drugs sectors which are seen to have good prospects for future business, writes Shigeo Nishizumi of *Jiji Press*.

The Nikkei-Dow average climbed 42.89 to 9,349.52. Gains outnumbered losses 411 to 275, with 172 issues unchanged.

A total of 294.29m shares changed hands, compared with 255.83m shares last Friday.

Non-residents increased buying in the morning, stimulating Japanese investors. Foreign purchases totalled 34m shares, far surpassing sales of 18m shares.

Another factor contributing to the

HONG KONG

A ROUND of selling by small investors in Hong Kong ahead of a possible joint announcement at the conclusion today of the latest Sino-British talks paled earlier gains in moderately active trading.

The Hang Seng index, which recorded a 24.26 rise at the end of the morning session, closed the day 11.07 ahead at 3,864.01.

The underlying mood remained optimistic or expectations of a compromise between Britain and China in their talks on the colony's political future.

Among leaders, Cheung Kong gained 5 cents to HK\$12.90 and Jardine Matheson 40 cents to HK\$10.90.

China Light and Power added 60 cents to HK\$14.30 following its announcement of increased profits and dividend and a one-for-four scrip issue.

SINGAPORE

A CAUTIOUS mood prevailed in Singapore, following last Friday's mild rally, and shares ended narrowly mixed after a day of selective buying and profit-taking.

The Straits Times industrial index closed 0.58 higher at 936.08.

The food distributor Cerebos, which was the volume leader last week, again proved the most active and closed 3 cents higher at \$52.15.

The demand is attributed to investment buying on a recently formed view that the company may perform better than expected over the next two to three years.

AUSTRALIA

AN EASIER tone emerged in Sydney with investors apparently reluctant to push industrial issues higher after the records reached by the sector index on each of the three previous sessions.

share price rise was the certainty that the House of Representatives would be dissolved for a general election by the end of the year, after a month of political turmoil in the wake of Tokyo District Court's guilty verdict on Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, in the Lockheed pay-off scandal.

Many investors fear that the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party will suffer a setback in the election, but they apparently appreciated the breakthrough in the deadlock which will be brought about by the lower house dissolution.

Chemicals were generally higher. Kureha added Y2 to Y937 and Shin-Etsu Y30 to Y311.

Investors also selected synthetic fibres, paper-pulp and machine tools. Asahi Chemical, helped by buying by non-residents, added Y21 to Y395 and Toho Rayon Y9 to Y324. Oji Paper advanced Y9 to Y50, while Sonoko Manufacturing scored a Y50 rise to Y840.

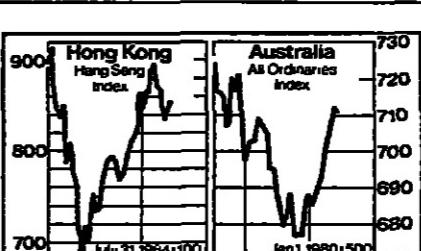
Toyo Kogyo attracted attention, gaining Y23 to Y480 on a newspaper report that the maker of Mazda cars had decided to build a plant in the U.S. to turn out 5,000 small passenger cars a month. The issue advanced despite the car maker's comment that the company was still cautiously studying such a plan.

Motor parts issues also firmed, with Nihon Radiator and Tokico rising Y16 and Y30, respectively, to Y482 and Y545.

However, blue chips were mixed. Matsushita Electric Industrial finished the day at Y1,720, up Y20, and Canon at Y1,490 was up Y30, while Fujitsu lost Y20 to Y1,280.

Hitachi came under selling pressure again, shedding Y18 to Y840, dampening market sentiment.

Bond trading was very thin as buyers strengthened their wait-and-see attitude on speculation that the Debt Consolidation Fund and the Trust Fund Bureau would shortly carry out buying and selling operations respectively.



The All Ordinaries index dropped 1.7 to 710.8, while the All Industrials slipped 0.1 to 913.4.

Base metal miners were generally easier, while gold miners were mixed. Banks retreated after their sharp rises last week and oil shares were mixed to lower.

SOUTH AFRICA

DULL world bullion values did not prevent a determined advance by Johannesburg gold shares, with the buying motivation being attributed by one broker to a commitment by local institutions of funds which had been earmarked for investment abroad once exchange controls were relaxed.

He said the view now was that this might not be enacted for some time. Randfontein Estates stood R7.50 to the good at R143.50 and Hartebeest R4 better at R73.50.

De Beers dipped 10 cents to R9.05 on reports that it had surplus stocks of gem diamonds.

CANADA

GAINS in the non-resource sectors paced an overall advance in Toronto. The firmer tone was particularly evident in property, transport and merchandising issues but both the oil and gold sectors turned lower.

Montreal was also slightly firmer overall with advances recorded in industrials and utilities although banks and papers were weaker.

EUROPE

Corporate reports provide cue

IN THE absence of specific domestic factors, many European centres looked to Wall Street's pre-weekend performance to underpin their own advances yesterday. Corporate results provided most of the features though.

In Amsterdam, few changes were seen after a higher opening. One of the largest advances was recorded by OeC-Van der Grinten which added F1.9 to F1.204.50.

Among internationals, Akzo rose F1.90 to F1.81.30 - its highest for the year - ahead of third quarter results which showed a large rise in profits. The shares remained unchanged after the results.

Paris returned from its long holiday weekend to find shares well supported, despite some light profit-taking.

A F-point cut by the Bank of France in the call money rate to 12% per cent aided sentiment.

Foreign buyers were in evidence in Frankfurt's chemicals sector ahead of nine-month reports for the major producers, due soon. However, banks were shunned and the Commerzbank index fell 2 points to 1,015.8, in a continued reflection of heavy late selling of bank issues on Friday.

In Brussels, steel and related stocks were steady to firm. Cockerill Sambre rose BFr 10 to BFr 166, while Arbed of Luxembourg added BFr 138 to BFr 1,250 following reports that the Belgian Government is expected to announce a plan for closer links between the two groups.

In a mixed Stockholm, Boliden showed the largest gain, adding Skr 5 to Skr 385 ahead of nine-month results which showed a sharp improvement in performance.

Shares were also mixed in modest end-account trading in Milan. However, Olivetti, which has seen heavy speculative attention following the restructuring of its share capital, added L45 to L3,305, having touched L3,345 in unofficial dealings.

Helsinki, attracting increasing foreign interest, is to introduce official price quotes for free shares which non-Finns are permitted to hold.

LONDON

Financial bid moves head agenda

INTENSE BID and merger speculation in the financial sectors featured London stock markets on the first day of a new trading account yesterday. Leading equities were overshadowed.

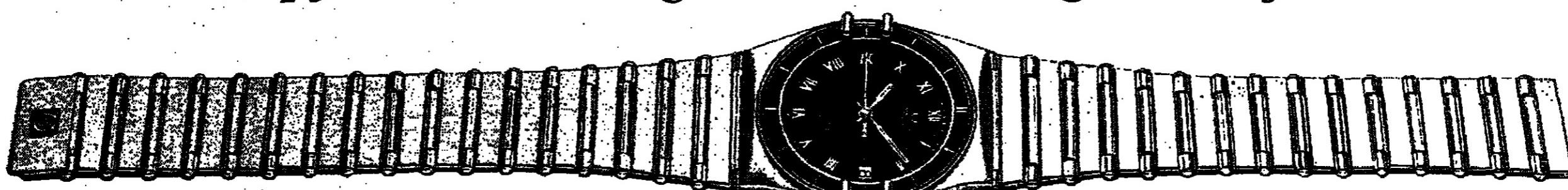
Stockjobber Akroyd and Smithers, in discussions with Mercury Securities seeking a 20.9 per cent stake in Akroyd, was suspended at 585p compared with last Friday's close of 550p.

The FT Industrial Ordinary share index closed 2.3 up at the day's best of 727.4. Gilt-edged securities met profit-taking but longer-dated stocks ended with movements of 1/4 either way.

Recently erratic South African golds provided the day's feature in mining markets. Randfontein jumped 65% to £83. Australians turned easier.

Details, page 37; Share information service, pages 38-39.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Continued on Page 3

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

Continued on Page 24

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 per cent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise

dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a-dividend also extract b-annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend c-equidating dividend d-called d-new yearly low e-dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, g-dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax f-dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend, i=dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting k-dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears m-next issue in the past 52 weeks The high-low range begins with the start of trading n=next day delivery P/E-price-earnings ratio r-dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months plus stock dividend s-stock split Dividends begins with date of split s-a=sales t-dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months' estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date u=new yearly high v-trading halted w-in bankruptcy x=receivership or being re-organised under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies yd=when distributed wi=when issued, wi-with warrants x-ex-dividend or ex-rights xdis-ex-distribution wi-without warrants y=ex-dividend and sales in full, yld-yield, z=sales in full

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AMERICAN

Continued from Page 35

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | 13th | 14th | 15th | 16th | 17th | 18th | 19th | 20th | 21st | 22nd | 23rd | 24th | 25th | 26th | 27th | 28th | 29th | 30th | 31st | 32nd | 33rd | 34th | 35th | 36th | 37th | 38th | 39th | 40th | 41st | 42nd | 43rd | 44th | 45th | 46th | 47th | 48th | 49th | 50th | 51st | 52nd | 53rd | 54th | 55th | 56th | 57th | 58th | 59th | 60th | 61st | 62nd | 63rd | 64th | 65th | 66th | 67th | 68th | 69th | 70th | 71st | 72nd | 73rd | 74th | 75th | 76th | 77th | 78th | 79th | 80th | 81st | 82nd | 83rd | 84th | 85th | 86th | 87th | 88th | 89th | 90th | 91st | 92nd | 93rd | 94th | 95th | 96th | 97th | 98th | 99th | 100th | 101st | 102nd | 103rd | 104th | 105th | 106th | 107th | 108th | 109th | 110th | 111th | 112th | 113th | 114th | 115th | 116th | 117th | 118th | 119th | 120th | 121st | 122nd | 123rd | 124th | 125th | 126th | 127th | 128th | 129th | 130th | 131st | 132nd | 133rd | 134th | 135th | 136th | 137th | 138th | 139th | 140th | 141st | 142nd | 143rd | 144th | 145th | 146th | 147th | 148th | 149th | 150th | 151st | 152nd | 153rd | 154th | 155th | 156th | 157th | 158th | 159th | 160th | 161st | 162nd | 163rd | 164th | 165th | 166th | 167th | 168th | 169th | 170th | 171st | 172nd | 173rd | 174th | 175th | 176th | 177th | 178th | 179th | 180th | 181st | 182nd | 183rd | 184th | 185th | 186th | 187th | 188th | 189th | 190th | 191st | 192nd | 193rd | 194th | 195th | 196th | 197th | 198th | 199th | 200th | 201st | 202nd | 203rd | 204th | 205th | 206th | 207th | 208th | 209th | 210th | 211th | 212nd | 213rd | 214th | 215th | 216th | 217th | 218th | 219th | 220th | 221st | 222nd | 223rd | 224th | 225th | 226th | 227th | 228th | 229th | 230th | 231st | 232nd | 233rd | 234th | 235th | 236th | 237th | 238th | 239th | 240th | 241st | 242nd | 243rd | 244th | 245th | 246th | 247th | 248th | 249th | 250th | 251st | 252nd | 253rd | 254th | 255th | 256th | 257th | 258th | 259th | 260th | 261st | 262nd | 263rd | 264th | 265th | 266th | 267th | 268th | 269th | 270th | 271st | 272nd | 273rd | 274th | 275th | 276th | 277th | 278th | 279th | 280th | 281st | 282nd | 283rd | 284th | 285th | 286th | 287th | 288th | 289th | 290th | 291st | 292nd | 293rd | 294th | 295th | 296th | 297th | 298th | 299th | 300th | 301st | 302nd | 303rd | 304th | 305th | 306th | 307th | 308th | 309th | 310th | 311th | 312th | 313th | 314th | 315th | 316th | 317th | 318th | 319th | 320th | 321st | 322nd | 323rd | 324th | 325th | 326th | 327th | 328th | 329th | 330th | 331st | 332nd | 333rd | 334th | 335th | 336th | 337th | 338th | 339th | 340th | 341st | 342nd | 343rd | 344th | 345th | 346th | 347th | 348th | 349th | 350th | 351st | 352nd | 353rd | 354th | 355th | 356th | 357th | 358th | 359th | 360th | 361st | 362nd | 363rd | 364th | 365th | 366th | 367th | 368th | 369th | 370th | 371st | 372nd | 373rd | 374th | 375th | 376th | 377th | 378th | 379th | 380th | 381st | 382nd | 383rd | 384th | 385th | 386th | 387th | 388th | 389th | 390th | 391st | 392nd | 393rd | 394th | 395th | 396th | 397th | 398th | 399th | 400th | 401st | 402nd | 403rd | 404th | 405th | 406th | 407th | 408th | 409th | 410th | 411th | 412th | 413th | 414th | 415th | 416th | 417th | 418th | 419th | 420th | 421st | 422nd | 423rd | 424th | 425th | 426th | 427th | 428th | 429th | 430th | 431st | 432nd | 433rd | 434th | 435th | 436th | 437th | 438th | 439th | 440th | 441st | 442nd | 443rd | 444th | 445th | 446th | 447th | 448th | 449th | 450th | 451st | 452nd | 453rd | 454th | 455th | 456th | 457th | 458th | 459th | 460th | 461st | 462nd | 463rd | 464th | 465th | 466th | 467th | 468th | 469th | 470th | 471st | 472nd | 473rd | 474th | 475th | 476th | 477th | 478th | 479th | 480th | 481st | 482nd | 483rd | 484th | 485th | 486th | 487th | 488th | 489th | 490th | 491st | 492nd | 493rd | 494th | 495th | 496th | 497th | 498th | 499th | 500th | 501st | 502nd | 503rd | 504th | 505th | 506th | 507th | 508th | 509th | 510th | 511st | 512nd | 513rd | 514th | 515th | 516th | 517th | 518th | 519th | 520th | 521st | 522nd | 523rd | 524th | 525th | 526th | 527th | 528th | 529th | 530th | 531st | 532nd | 533rd | 534th | 535th | 536th | 537th | 538th | 539th | 540th | 541st | 542nd | 543rd | 544th | 545th | 546th | 547th | 548th | 549th | 550th | 551st | 552nd | 553rd | 554th | 555th | 556th | 557th | 558th | 559th | 560th | 561st | 562nd | 563rd | 564th | 565th | 566th | 567th | 568th | 569th | 570th | 571st | 572nd | 573rd | 574th | 575th | 576th | 577th | 578th | 579th | 580th | 581st | 582nd | 583rd | 584th | 585th | 586th | 587th | 588th | 589th | 590th | 591st | 592nd | 593rd | 594th | 595th | 596th | 597th | 598th | 599th | 600th | 601st | 602nd | 603rd | 604th | 605th | 606th | 607th | 608th | 609th | 610th | 611st | 612nd | 613rd | 614th | 615th | 616th | 617th | 618th | 619th | 620th | 621st | 622nd | 623rd | 624th | 625th | 626th | 627th | 628th | 629th | 630th | 631st | 632nd | 633rd | 634th | 635th | 636th | 637th | 638th | 639th | 640th | 641st | 642nd | 643rd | 644th | 645th | 646th | 647th | 648th | 649th | 650th | 651st | 652nd | 653rd | 654th | 655th | 656th | 657th | 658th | 659th | 660th | 661st | 662nd | 663rd | 664th | 665th | 666th | 667th | 668th | 669th | 670th | 671st | 672nd | 673rd | 674th | 675th | 676th | 677th | 678th | 679th | 680th | 681st | 682nd | 683rd | 684th | 685th | 686th | 687th | 688th | 689th | 690th | 691st | 692nd | 693rd | 694th | 695th | 696th | 697th | 698th | 699th | 700th | 701st | 702nd | 703rd | 704th | 705th | 706th | 707th | 708th | 709th | 710th | 711st | 712nd | 713rd | 714th | 715th | 716th | 717th | 718th | 719th | 720th | 721st | 722nd | 723rd | 724th | 725th | 726th | 727th | 728th | 729th | 730th | 731st | 732nd | 733rd | 734th | 735th | 736th | 737th | 738th | 739th | 740th | 741st | 742nd | 743rd | 744th | 745th | 746th | 747th | 748th | 749th | 750th | 751st | 752nd | 753rd | 754th | 755th | 756th | 757th | 758th | 759th | 760th | 761st | 762nd | 763rd | 764th | 765th | 766th | 767th | 768th | 769th | 770th | 771st | 772nd | 773rd | 774th | 775th | 776th | 777th | 778th | 779th | 780th | 781st | 782nd | 783rd | 784th | 785th | 786th | 787th | 788th | 789th | 790th | 791st | 792nd | 793rd | 794th | 795th | 796th | 797th | 798th | 799th | 800th | 801st | 802nd | 803rd | 804th | 805th | 806th | 807th | 808th | 809th | 810th | 811th | 812th | 813th | 814th | 815th | 816th | 817th | 818th | 819th | 820th | 821st | 822nd | 823rd | 824th | 825th | 826th | 827th | 828th | 829th | 830th | 831st | 832nd | 833rd | 834th | 835th | 836th | 837th | 838th | 839th | 840th | 841st | 842nd | 843rd | 844th | 845th | 846th | 847th | 848th | 849th | 850th | 851st | 852nd |<
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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

RECENT ISSUES

Financials actively higher after Akroyd/Mercury talks Index up 2.3 more at 727.4

Account Dealing Dates

First Declara... Last Account Dealings Date Day Oct 31 Nov 10 Nov 11 Nov 21 Nov 14 Nov 24 Nov 25 Dec 8 Dec 9 Dec 5 Nov 28 Dec 8 Dec 9 Dec 5 * Last-dealing day may take place from 9.30 am on two business days earlier.

Intense bid and merger speculation in the financial sectors featured London stock markets on the first day of a new trading account yesterday. Leading equities were completely overshadowed as buyers showed an apparent obsession for shares with a financial flavour.

Early in the morning for the fresh assault in this area of the market was provided by the 2.3 per cent announcement that Akroyd and Smithers, one of the leading quoted stockjobbing firms, is in discussions with Mercury Securities with a view to the latter acquiring a 29.9 per cent stake in Akroyd. Dealings in Akroyd's shares which leapt £5 last week, were suspended at 685p, compared with last Friday's closing level of 550p, while shares of rival stockjobbers Smith Bros. advanced in sympathy.

Yesterday's announcement comes hard on the heels of last week's move by Citicorp of the US to buy a sizeable stake in London stockbrokers Vieiros da Costa. This sparked off a wave of speculative buying amid a revival of the lively debate about a deregulation of the London Stock Exchange which should make it much easier and attractive for outsiders to enter the City. Merchant Banks were particularly strong.

Insurances were also outstanding on takeover speculation. The Eagle Star bid situation remained the focal point as shares in Eagle Star continued to reflect the views of the Commission that the five bids are not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. On talks of an increased bid of around £9 per share from Allianz, E. S. rose further to close at 665p or 90 above the agreed offer from BAT International.

Elsewhere in equities, special situation stocks and those tipped in the week-end Press provided most interest. Meanwhile, as widely expected, the Knightsbridge-based casino concern, Aspinalls, which was oversubscribed more than 55 times, established a large premium; compared with the offer, the share price of 155p, the shares opened and closed at 163p, having traded actively between 155p and 165p.

Blue chip industrials passed a quiet session with potential investors seemingly content to await the Chancellor's economic statement on Thursday before concluding fresh funds. However, confirming his hand, the content of his address will be optimistic about the outlook for UK output and inflation helped the leaders to stay firm.

The Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Share Index, down 0.7 at 10 am, largely as a result of the fall of the constituents going ex-dividend, rallied to close 2.3 up at the day's close of 27.4, its highest since August 22.

Gilt-edged securities met profit-taking after last week's surge to their highest levels of the year, but not before attract-

ing fresh support on the prospect of reduced inflation and on yield considerations. After Friday's sharp advances, quotations made a mixed showing. Up to better initially, the shorts reacted to show falls of 1s before closing with small gains. Longer-dated stocks ended with movements of 1s either way, and the FT Government Securities Index down 0.16 down at 83.84, eased for the first time in five trading sessions.

Numerous double-figure gains highlighted the Insurance sector. Eagle Star resumed their heady rise to close 20 up at 685p while investors searched for the next bid candidate. Their choices ended Phoenix, 15 higher at 355p, and Commercial Union, 5 dearer at 184p and General Accident, 13 better at 445p xia. Life issues were equally strong with Equity and Law 22 higher at 72p and Paragon 19 up at 72p. Double-figure rises were also scored by Britannia, 43p, Legal and General, 50p, and Sun Life, 55p, among others.

Subject of a Sunday newspaper profile, Schroders jumped 45 to 350p, while Hambros spurted 13 to 113p on a Press view that the group could recover part of its Reichenbach through a pending sale. Northern Assurance and Hill Samuel rose 16 to 25p and Grindlays 5 to 125p. Cartels stood out in Hire Purchases with a gain of 24 to 34p, after 35p, following news that Providence Capital Life has a 7 per cent stake in Clearing Banks were feature in Royal Bank of Scotland, up 3 more to 150p, with Bank of Scotland 30 higher at 575p in sympathy. Allied Irish revived with a rise of 5 to 150p.

In first-time dealings in the Unlisted Securities Market, Unlisted Page opened and closed 17p, compared with the placing price of 16p. Elsewhere, Investment Warrants made a quiet debut at 28p, but continued investment demand took Logica up 5 more to the best yet of 25p.

Among Breweries, South London concern Youngs held at 270p, while the now-volatile 5 better at 170p, today's results are expected to show pre-tax profits of around £1.35m.

Sporadic features among leading Construction issues included Taylor Woodrow up 10 at 555p. Takeover speculation flared in M. Gleeson, which jumped 10 to 387p, the preliminary statement due on Friday. W. Leech was also up and rose 10p to 13p.

Leading Electricals traded quietly, but Plessey managed a gain of a couple of pence at 224p ahead of Thursday's interim statement. Cable and Wireless, 305p, and International Signals, 180p, both up to report earnings today, improved 5 and 7 respectively. Electronic Machine, reflecting a tip-sheet recommendation, advanced 8 to 33p.

Interest in the Engineering sector was confined mainly to secondary issues, weekend comment stimulating demand for D. F. Bevan, 34 higher at 159p, ML Holdings, 3 to the good at 245p, and Parkfield Foundries, a couple of pence dearer at 43p. J. and B. Jackson, 12, and another member of 16p, up 4.

Elsewhere, Babcock International closed 3 cheaper at 128p following the statement clarifying the company's position in

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Nov 14	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	year ago
Government Secs...	83.54	83.70	82.56	82.09	81.90	84.61	
Fixed Interest.....	85.82	85.85	85.87	85.80	84.97	86.68	
Industrial Ordin...	727.4	725.1	720.6	721.8	720.1	721.4	632.0
Gold Mines.....	513.7	509.4	515.4	513.1	492.2	474.5	358.5
Ord. Div. Yield....	4.72	4.72	4.75	4.74	4.75	4.69	
Earnings, Ydg (\$/full)	9.39	9.35	9.42	9.40	9.42	9.41	10.04
P/E Ratio (last) (*)	13.30	13.35	13.28	13.25	13.26	11.95	
Total bargains.....	21,238	19,730	18,895	20,100	18,916	18,847	25,784
Equity turnover £m	—	252.6	274.2	161.6	168.8	154.6	218.3
Equity bargains.....	19,431	19,455	18,484	18,484	16,421	21,820	
Shares traded (m)	162.1	171.7	85.2	98.2	96.8	149.9	

10 am 724.4. 11 pm 726.5. Noon 727.1. 1 pm 728.9. Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 18/1/78. Int. 1983. Gold Mines 12/78. B.A.C. Activity 1974. Latest Index 21/2028. NMID = 12.25.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1983	Since Compt'n'	Nov. 11	Nov. 10
	High	Low	High	Low
Daily				
Gilt Edged	190.1	185.3		
Bargains.....	125.2	128.1	510.4	554.7
Ind. Ord.	240.4	240.4	40.4	40.4
Gold Mines	754.7	734.7	45.5	45.5
	(15.2)	(11.1)	(16.2/62)	(20.7/11)
			Bargains.....	108.4
			Value.....	306.9

10 am 724.4. 11 pm 726.5. Noon 727.1. 1 pm 728.9. Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 18/1/78. Int. 1983. Gold Mines 12/78. B.A.C. Activity 1974. Latest Index 21/2028. NMID = 12.25.

S.E. ACTIVITY

	1983	Since Compt'n'	Nov. 11	Nov. 10
	High	Low	High	Low
Daily				
Gilt Edged	190.1	185.3		
Bargains.....	125.2	128.1	510.4	554.7
Ind. Ord.	240.4	240.4	40.4	40.4
Gold Mines	754.7	734.7	45.5	45.5
	(15.2)	(11.1)	(16.2/62)	(20.7/11)
			Bargains.....	108.4
			Value.....	306.9

10 am 724.4. 11 pm 726.5. Noon 727.1. 1 pm 728.9. Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 18/1/78. Int. 1983. Gold Mines 12/78. B.A.C. Activity 1974. Latest Index 21/2028. NMID = 12.25.

Properties eased awaiting

Land Securities half-year results but hardened later in session with the market leader which closed the turn better at 33p, after 33p. MFC hardened 3 to 28p, 10p-11p. Tratford Park closed similarly despite a 15p fall in the same period. Another smaller-share stock, E. & G. Bill, was little changed at 10p, following the share exchange offer from Promotion House.

Properties eased awaiting Land Securities half-year results but hardened later in session with the market leader which closed the turn better at 33p, after 33p. MFC hardened 3 to 28p, 10p-11p. Tratford Park closed similarly despite a 15p fall in the same period. Another smaller-share stock, E. & G. Bill, was little changed at 10p, following the share exchange offer from Promotion House.

Textiles attracted steady, if selective, support. Courtaulds were again wanted in front of interim results due later this month and hardened 3 to a 1983 peak of 105p. Nottinghamshire Textiles, 16p, and Daventry International, 15p, rose 5 and 5 respectively. Gains of 5 were also noted for Sirdar, 115p, David Dixon, 90p, and Coats Patens, 82p, the last-mentioned still benefiting from a broker's view of a forthcoming trade to 22p following press comment.

After recent strength reflecting persistent speculation of outside interest taking stakes in Stock Exchange member firms, stockjobbers Akroyd and Smithers touched 605p and were again wanted in front of interim results due later this month and hardened 3 to 22p following press comment.

Improved demand for Tratford Park resulted in 7.70s, with contracts which comprising 2,195 calls and 508 puts. Continued takeover speculation among insurance prompted an active business in Commercial Union in which 362 calls were done, 152 in the January 180s, up to 29p, in the December 180s, up to 29p, and 10p-11p. Courtaulds' interim figures due later this month recorded 240 calls, 125 of which were struck in the April 90s, while Imperial Group's possible purchase of a 29.9 per cent stake in Akroyd/Mercury led to 22p better at 48p, after 43p.

The announcement sparked another active business in the only other quoted jobber, Smith Brothers, which improved to a new peak of 82p before settling 6 dearer on balance at 76p.

Elsewhere in Financials, buyers again showed interest in Eximbank International, which attracted a brisk trade and closed 5 up at 573p. Mercantile House, buoyed by weekend comment, added 7 at 365p, while Mills and Allen advanced 10 to 340p.

Leading Oils were inclined easier in quiet trading, underlining sentiment not being helped by a cautious weekend Press article on the sector. Speculative issues, however, enjoyed yet another relatively lively session. Atlantic Resources advanced 40 more to 730p and Aran put on a couple of pence to 38p. Press reports of a possible deal between the oil and gas sectors were reflected in a 10p-11p rise for Caledonian, up 30 at 73p, and Bryson which put on 15 further to 280p. Columbian drilling hopes left Edington 20 higher at 315p, after 325p.

Randfontein jump

Recently erratic South African Golds provided the day's feature in foreign markets. Randfontein, particularly sensitive to gold movements in recent days, jumped 54 to 553 following widespread buying interest in a market short of stock.

Other leading Golds also made good progress, albeit in thin trading conditions. Vaal Reefs moved up 22 to 656, Hartbeespoort 21 to 642 and Winkelveld 4 to 523.

The Gold Mines index rose 4.3 to 51.2 and bullion remained a sluggish market and closed unaltered at \$382.125 an ounce.

Among the cheaper-priced issues, Witwatersrand Nigel continued to attract considerable buying interest, prompted by the board room power struggle, and added 9 at 164p.

Financials posted good gains across the board. London issues were boosted by first UK equity results today, improved 5 and 7 respectively. Electronic Machine, reflecting a tip-sheet recommendation, advanced 8 to 33p.

Hampshire Areas rose 6 to 199p despite adverse comment in the weekend Press.

South African Financials were

highlighted by "Amgold," 11s to the good at 689p, and Generar which added 1 at 114s. "Ariplast" rallied a like amount to 11s after the recent poor results. Middle Wits were prominent at 975p, up 30p, and Gold Fields of South Africa put on 1s to 11s.

Leading Australias turned easier after the strong gains in recent weeks but a number of the speculative issues made good progress.

The former Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie closed 10 to 105p. CRA retreated 6 to 550p. North Broken Hill eased 4 to 105p. Peko-Wallside ended 2 cheaper at 358p or the one-for-six rights issue at AS4.25 a share. The "new" were quoted at 95p premium. Bond Corporation were well supported and rose 8 to 78p.

Victoria Gold edged up 11 to 105p but Irianhoe Gold fared 2 to 115p. Samrand 3 to 105p, the last-named following the proposed one-for-three rights issue at 40 cents (25p).

Improved demand for Tratford Park resulted in 7.70s, with contracts which comprising 2,195 calls and 508 puts. Continued takeover speculation among insurance prompted an active business in Commercial Union in which 362 calls were done, 152 in the January 180s, up to 29p, in the December 180s, up to 29p, and 10p-11p. Courtaulds' interim figures due later this month recorded 240 calls, 125 of which were struck in the April 90s, while Imperial Group's possible purchase of a 29.9 per cent stake in Akroyd/Mercury led to 22p better at 48p, after 43p.

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

INSURANCE & OVERSEAS MANAGED FUNDS

OFFSHORE AND

D. Fixed Int. 124.3 127.1 127.1 127.1 **B&H Inv. Securities Inc.** 124.3 127.2 127.2 127.2 **H&P Inv Nov 9** 125.6 125.6 125.6 **R. Slik Prop. Bond** 121.0 121.0 121.0 **Set. Selected page Muni/Fri and Stock Exchange dealers Page Set** **Worldwide Inc.** 121.26 120.80 120.80 **Far East Nov 9** 123.95 123.95 123.95 **Bond Fund** 121.185 122.1 122.1 **** Only available to charitable causes \$ Weighted column shows annualized rate of NAV increase.**

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Ministers fail to agree on NZ butter import quotas

By IVO DAWNAY IN BRUSSELS

EEC Agriculture Ministers failed again last night to reach agreement on 1984 quota levels for New Zealand butter imports to the UK. A postponement, the second in a month, leaves the council only until the end of the year to reach an agreement before existing arrangements expire.

Earlier, Mr Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, urged Ministers to reach a rapid agreement on the quotas, though he tacitly acknowledged that a deal might be "politically impossible" during the current two-day talks.

Emphasising the urgency of the decision, Mr Dalsager added that the EEC and New Zealand, which together control around 75 per cent of the world butter market had a "mutual interest in continued co-operation."

Sugar values fall sharply

By RICHARD MOONEY

WORLD SUGAR prices fell back sharply yesterday as the bullish factors which pushed values higher last week faded into the background and allowed the bearish implications of recent upward revisions of world sugar supply estimates for the 1983/84 crop year to come to the fore once again.

In the morning, the London daily raw sugar price was £150 down at £131.50 a tonne and the March position on the London futures market ended the day 55.05 below Friday's close at 105.50 a tonne.

A bullish influence last week was the prospect of progress towards an effective International Sugar Agreement (ISA) at talks in London. After a sticky start

reports coming out of the talks were fairly encouraging.

Although the EEC delegation stood firm on its call for quotas to be based on recent export availability rather than export performance many observers felt that a performance-based system, as favoured by other major exporters would be accepted as a basis for negotiation by the EEC Commission after hearing its delegation's report.

Yesterday, however traders' minds tended to refocus on the difficult problems that would still have to be surmounted before a workable pact, including the EEC, could be concluded.

A meeting of exporters is to be held in Geneva in January and, if all goes well, a full negotiating session could take place in March.

production which is aimed at introducing punitive constraints on surplus producers.

The French would like to tie the butter quota to parallel talks on New Zealand's lamb exports to the UK which are also granted tariff exemptions.

Yesterday, Mr René Soucoun, the French Junior Agricultural minister, claimed that there was little case for continued favoured treatment for New Zealand butter, as UK self-sufficiency in butter production had leaped from 20 per cent when it joined the EEC to about 71 per cent today.

The issue is now likely to re-emerge at the Athens summit in December. However, few believe a conclusion will be reached until the more controversial aspects of dairy sector reform, particularly milk, are resolved.

Decrease in zinc stocks

ZINC VALUES

rose strongly on the London Metal Exchange yesterday boosted by speculative buying interest. The three-month quotation closed 55 up at £600.75 a tonne.

Stocks of zinc held in the LME warehouses fell for the seventh week in succession, dropping by 1,175 to a total holdings to 103,825 tonnes.

Aluminium stocks declined too by 2,000 to 238,700 tonnes, helping prices to rally after last week's fall. Nickel stocks were down by 546 to 25,504 tonnes.

Copper stocks rose once again for the 15th consecutive week, up by 2,775 to 421,900 tonnes. The five-week decline in lead stocks was reversed, with an increase of 1,500 to 184,650 tonnes. Tin stocks climbed by 42,500 to 42,435 tonnes.

François M. Drouet, Forward

standardised the London Metal Exchange's new grain contract, confirmed by the Soviet Union.

Mr Jean-Baptiste Doumeng,

the French Communist millionaire and a leading trader with the Soviet Union, has won a major order from Moscow to deliver between 1.3m-1.5m tons of French grain.

The grain contract, confirmed

France to supply USSR with grain

By Paul Betts in Paris

M. JEAN BAPTISTE DOUMENG, the French Communist millionaire and a leading trader with the Soviet Union, has won a major order from Moscow to deliver between 1.3m-1.5m tons of French grain.

The grain contract, confirmed by the Communist millionaire yesterday, is worth between £190m-£220m since the deal is based on current world grain prices of about \$147 a ton excluding transport and insurance.

The deal breaks with the usual Soviet practice of negotiating large grain contracts with several different competing French suppliers. In September, the Soviet Union negotiated a contract for 600,000 tons of grain between several French suppliers.

Although the agricultural and food consortium, Interagra, managed by M. Doumeng has been awarded the major new supply contract, M. Doumeng is expected to subcontract about 800,000 tons to other French grain traders.

M. Doumeng indicated that the amount of grain involved in the new contract corresponds to the volume of grain which could be managed by French ports between now and the end of the year.

France has recently stepped up its grain sales to the Soviet Union which has become the country's leading customer for cereals.

The world grain market, recently in large surplus, could move back into balance as economic recovery proceeds and US production cuts begin to bite, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report reviewing agricultural policy.

London tea auction prices surge to highest level for six years

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

TEA PRICES surged further ahead at the London auctions yesterday to the highest levels for 61 years. The indicative price for quality teas rose by 13p to 250p a kilo; medium by 20p to 235p; and low medium by 30p to 203p.

The average price for all teas at the auctions is expected to be over 20p up at around 230p a kilo compared with the all-time peak of 268.5p reached in May, 1977.

Trade sources said that the only reason the rise in quality tea prices appeared to be slowing down was that they had probably been increased too much last week.

On this occasion the shortage of supplies originates from the primary producing countries, notably India.

The market remains very

strong. The difference this year is that prices have risen more gradually than 1977 when auction values at one stage jumped by a £1 a kilo in two weeks.

The boom in 1977 was relatively short-lived since it was caused primarily by a shortage of spot (immediately available) supplies in the UK, according to the latest report from tea brokers Thompson Lloyd and Ewart.

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So far, retail prices in Britain have stayed unchanged, but London trade sources claim it is inevitable that they must increase shortly to reflect the increase in auction values of the basic raw material.

Australia to sell wheat to Iraq

By Colin Chapman in Sydney

THE AUSTRALIAN Wheat Board (AWB) has signed a contract to sell 1.25m tonnes of wheat to Iraq. The contract is worth £422.5m (£513.97m) and is the largest sale Australia has ever made to Iraq.

The AWB has made a good start in selling its year's anticipated record 15m tonnes crop although it expects to have to carry over at least 6.5m tonnes next year. It has a contract to supply China with about 2.5m tonnes and a 1m tonne deal with Egypt.

AWB chairman Sir Leslie Price yesterday rejected charges, mainly from the U.S., that Australia was undercutting the market with secret subsidies or easy credit.

A 36-hour blitzkrieg brought early winter to the entire European part of the Soviet Union. "Not even the oldest inhabitants of Moscow can remember such an early and abrupt change of seasons," was reported.

• NIGERIA'S Plateau State fears it could lose more than 1m hectares of crops to drought this year. State Governor Solomon Law said 90 per cent of the state's rice crop had been wiped out.

• TWO BRAZILIAN crushing companies bought 4,500 tonnes each of soya-bean from Argentina—the first imports reported since the Government freed soya imports in mid-September.

• SRI LANKA is to set aside money in its 1984 budget for a programme to increase tea, rubber and coconut production.

• PAKISTAN may have to revise its cotton export plans because of rain and pest damage.

• CHINESE geologists have discovered deposits of aluminium silicate estimated at more than 1bn tonnes in Heliangding province.

Stable bauxite prices recommended

BY CANUTE JAMES IN KINGSTON

THE International Bauxite Association (IBA) has recommended its members not to raise bauxite and alumina prices next year.

The IBA ministerial council recommended that bauxite sold to North and South America next year should be within a range of 2-3 per cent of the average American metals market list price for alumina.

The council said that alumina prices should be within

a range of 14-18 per cent of the average American metals market list price for ingot. These are the same price ranges recommended for this year.

Mr Ronald Thomas of Australia, the association's secretary-general, said the decision to maintain this year's recommended prices was the result of the continuing weak demand for alumina ingot.

The council said that alumina prices should be within

The IBA's members now include Australia, Guinea and Jamaica, the world's top three bauxite producers. Other members are Indonesia, Jamaica, Guyana, Surinam and the Dominican Republic.

The association's members last year produced 54m tonnes of the world's 78m tonnes of ore, and about 40 per cent of the world alumina production.

• India has been admitted as a member of the association, Reuter reports.

Israel seeks farm research co-operation with UK

A JOINT Israeli-British farm

research fund was proposed in London yesterday when Israeli agriculture minister Mr H. Gruber met his British counterpart, Mr Michael Jopling.

The fund, for which an initial figure of about £14m has been mentioned, would be similar to ones already operating between Israel and the U.S. and Canada.

Israeli hopes any such scheme with Britain would involve research on dairy, cereals and glasshouse culture.

Before meeting Mr Jopling, Mr Gruber toured the new Covent Garden market, which last year received 15 per cent of Israel's horticulture exports to Britain. He told importers of his concern over Spain's increasing entry to the EEC.

He said he would be pleased if the status quo implied in the 1978 economic co-operation agreement between the EEC and Israel could be preserved.

This had provided the framework for the development of trade in fresh and processed agriculture goods between the two signatories.

AMERICAN MARKETS

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The world

Redemption Notice

Public Power Corporation

(Dimosia Epihisis Elektrostrou)

U.S. \$20,000,000 8% Per Cent. External Loan Bonds Due 1984

Guaranteed by The Hellenic Republic

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Deed dated January 4, 1973 under which the above-designated Bonds are issued, \$2,910,000 aggregate principal amount of such Bonds of the following distinctive numbers has been drawn for redemption for the sinking fund on December 15, 1983 herein sometimes referred to as the redemption date:

\$1,000 COUPON BONDS																																															
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